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May 4, 1981

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BRITAIN IMPORTS FULL LOAD OF CANADIAN CATTLE

The first full load of Canadian beef cattle in several years arrived in Britain's Prestwick Airport recently.

The load, consisting of 56 purebred Herefords and valued at approximately $375,000, was imported by Brian Walling of Crosthwaite near Kendal. He kept the bulk of the shipment for himself and distributed the remaining animals to other buyers. There was also an Aberdeen-Angus bull for a Scottish farmer in the load.

Mr. Walling decided to buy Canadian cattle because he was so impressed with their size. He said "These Canadian Herefords are taller, bigger cattle than the European type animals and there is more lean to fat on them. They are more in keeping with what is now demanded by the market." He also said that Canadians set about increasing the size of their cattle about 20 years ago, but that most of the work has been done during the last 10 years.

The average weight that was aimed at for the cattle was about 1,100 pounds. However, the animals averaged 1,250 pounds at 18 to 20 months, and one tipped the scales at 1,500 pounds!

All the animals were assembled and shipped by John Hay of Innisfail who is secretary-manager of the Alberta Hereford Association. He has been a consistent exhibitor at Alberta Agriculture sponsored livestock shows in Edinburgh and Kenilworth and has continued to encourage United Kingdom buyers to visit Alberta to purchase both cattle and semen, despite the blue tongue ban on animals from Canada. He believes that this persistence is now paying off, and he hopes to increase Alberta's cattle sales to Britain.

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1981 CEMA PROGRAM CHANGES

The Canadian Egg Marketing Agency (CEMA) has implemented an accelerated Fowl Removal Program to counteract the continuing large egg supply.

The program's removal target is 1.5 million layers by May 25, 1981, and producers who participate must remain out of production for a minimum of eight weeks and up to a maximum of 16 weeks. Payouts under the program will range from a low of 96 per layer to a high of $2.07, depending upon the length of time the producer remains out of production.

Terry Appleby of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch points out that the 1981 program differs markedly from the 1980 program in that the minimum out-of-production period is twice as long as that of last year. In addition, the payout rate per layer for the minimum eight week out-of-production period is comparable to that received by poultrymen remaining in production. This situation should encourage full program participation.

On April 8 of this year around one million layers had been assigned to the program, about 40 per cent of which were from Manitoba. The remainder are expected to come from other provinces which are experiencing a surplus supply of eggs. Only four Alberta flocks totalling 31,000 birds had been assigned to the program as of April 7.

Since pullet placements in Alberta are seasonally higher in March and April, few layers are expected to be taken out of production under the Fowl Removal Program, and the demand for table eggs is expected to continue firm. Also, the net movement of eggs into the province is expected to increase by the third quarter of the year as a result of the 3 per cent global quota cutback that is just beginning to take effect.

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1981 CEMA Program Changes (cont'd)

CEMA's adjustment to current global policy represents an attempt by the agency to adjust available supplies to a reduced demand without lowering egg prices. Such a policy must have an immediate impact in the market place because egg supplies that are surplus to breaker and export needs place a considerable strain on the financial resources of CEMA.

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May 4, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SALINE SOIL REDUCES IRRIGATED BARLEY YIELDS

Since barley is one of the most salt-tolerant annual crops, it is commonly grown in saline areas on irrigated land, but current research in southern Alberta shows that it suffers significant yield losses under these conditions.

A field study was undertaken by Alberta Agriculture's irrigation division's research staff at Brooks in 1979 and 1980 to measure the effect of soil salinity on the yield of barley. The researchers wanted to establish the relationship between salinity conditions in the field and crop yields so that they could predict the yield of barley grown on irrigated saline soil.

The study data were obtained from fields in the Eastern Irrigated District which received typical irrigation management. The procedure involved taking soil salinity and moisture samples at various times over the growing season and harvesting barley samples at each of the sampling sites.

A soil is defined as being saline when it contains excess salts. These salts accumulate in the upper soil profile when a high water table is present or because of seepage from either an irrigation canal or from higher land where an excess of water has been applied. However, excess salts may also occur because of the presence of saline soil forming materials. Because excess salts hinder the uptake of water by plant roots, they cause the plants to suffer from lack of moisture even though a saline area is often the wettest part of a field. A large amount of some salts, like sodium, is toxic to plants.

Soil salinity is measured by the electrical conductivity (EC) of the soil. The more salts that are present, the higher will be this conductivity. A normal soil has an EC of 0 to 4 (mS/cm). Research carried out at Riverside in California showed no yield reduction when barley was grown on soil with an EC of 8. However, the southern Alberta research data showed barley yields on a soil with an EC of 8 to be only 58 per cent of the normal yield on

- (cont'd) -

Saline Soil Reduces Irrigated Barley Yields (cont'd)

a non-saline soil. The data from Riverside were collected from plots which were artificially salinized and where salinity and moisture conditions were kept constant. On the other hand, research in southern Alberta was carried out on fields that were under typical irrigation management and where the interaction of moisture stress and salinity were involved in affecting yields. While the Riverside data predict a yield of 80 per cent of normal at an EC of 12, the yield in Alberta on soils with an EC of 12 is only 10 per cent.

The present scheme for soil irrigability classification in Alberta allows soils which may cause considerable crop losses due to salinity to be classified as being irrigable. Soils that are classified as irrigable can have a maximum EC of 6 in the top 60 cm. Such soils produced crop yields of 80 per cent of normal. Soils that are classified as possibly irrigable are allowed to have up to a maximum EC of 12 in the top 60 cm.

In the Alberta study, grain and forage yields of barley were equally affected by salinity, but barley that was irrigated by a pivot system was less affected by salinity than that grown under flood irrigation. This is because water is applied more frequently and more uniformly under pivot irrigation. With flood irrigation barley is more subject to moisture stress because the field is watered only once or twice a season, and low spots in the field may accumulate excess water. Barley is most affected by salinity when it is under stress due to lack of moisture.

Although the accumulation of salts around the whole root zone of a plant will affect its yield, it is the salts in the 0-15 and the 0-30 cm layers that have the greatest effect on yield. Both Galt and Klages barley showed similar yield responses to salinity in the Alberta study.

Research has also shown that barley is most affected by salinity in its early growth stages. Salinity readings taken at this time give the most accurate relationship between soil salinity and crop yield. Soil moisture conditions were less favorable in the spring of 1979

- (cont'd) -

Saline Soil Reduces Irrigated Barley Yields (cont'd)

than they were in the spring of 1980 and there were greater yield losses in 1979 than there were in 1980 in soils which had moderate salinity levels of EC 4 to EC 9.

The main benefits that the Alberta research has provided are:

- Assistance in determining the suitability of a field for growing barley
- An estimate of crop losses from salinity
- Information on the economics of reclaiming saline land
- Information that can be used to improve irrigation practices
- Information on salinity requirements for the classification of soils from the point of view of their suitability for irrigation

Anyone who would like more information on the above research should contact R.C. McKenzie, Irrigation Division, Alberta Agriculture, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO.

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May 4, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WIND EROSION – A CONTINUING THREAT

by John Hermans
Alberta Agriculture

Dry soil conditions coupled with brisk spring winds have caused some of the most serious soil drifting that has been seen in Alberta for a decade. Dust clouds reminiscent of the dirty thirties have darkened the skies and reduced visibility on many highways to dangerously low levels.

Severe soil erosion has been reported in the Calgary, Olds, Drumheller, Red Deer and St. Paul areas in addition to the southern portion of the province that is normally associated with this problem.

In most of these cases, soil drifting can be attributed to poor soil management. Excessive tillage on summerfallow has left the soil susceptible to erosion even at moderate wind speeds.

The maintenance of a good crop residue cover is the best protection against soil erosion caused by wind. Farmers in the more moist areas of Alberta should assess the value of summerfallow in their cropping program. In these areas the number of cultivations required for weed control on summerfallow makes it impossible to maintain a crop residue cover. There is also a need to evaluate such tillage operations as those required for the fall incorporation of herbicides.

When fallow is considered necessary, the number of tillage operations could be reduced by substituting a herbicide application for one or more cultivations. Where there is a choice between short-term weed control and long-term soil productivity, soil conservation must come first.

The land management practices required to minimize soil erosion have been well documented and are ultimately the best control. Unfortunately, once the soil has begun to drift it is too late to use them.

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Wind Erosion -- A Continuing Threat (cont'd)

Some emergency measures such as ripping to roughen the surface or spreading straw and manure can be employed as a last resort. If you require information on emergency measures, contact your district agriculturist or agricultural fieldman immediately.

So far this year, we have been more fortunate in Alberta than our neighbors to the east. If conditions do not deteriorate further, this spring should serve as a reminder of the devastation that faced farmers only 50 years ago and that could easily reoccur!

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May 4, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ESTABLISHING A GOOD CANOLA STAND

What happened to your canola stand last spring? Did you have to re-seed it? Was it uneven or patchy? Where the seedlings slow to grow? Unfortunately, a large number of growers would have to answer yes to at least one of these questions.

Phil Thomas, supervisor of oilseed crops with Alberta Agriculture, says a poor canola stand is usually blamed on anything but the correct cause. The general factors that affect the emergence and establishment of canola are such things as soil moisture, soil temperature, soil compaction, depth of seeding, genetic potential of the seed and plant diseases. Usually, one of the following are blamed for poor germination and emergence.

- Seeding deeper than one inch
- Seeding into a cold, too moist seedbed
- Using poor quality seed
- Seeding into a dry, loose seedbed
- Placing too much nitrogen or phosphorous in direct contact with the seed
- Soil crusting that prevents normal seedling emergence

However, in actuality, pre-emergence seedling blight probably accounts for a large percentage of the poor germination and uneven emergence that is experienced by canola growers. It can destroy up to 100 per cent of a stand, but it generally partially thins out the stand.

Mr. Thomas says seedling blight usually becomes established because one or several of the above factors have weakened the seedlings enough to allow the fungus to gain a foothold. He points out that the fungus is a very weak organism and that it can only infect germinating seedlings. Those under abnormal stress are especially susceptible.

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Establishing A Good Canola Stand (cont'd)

Seedlings infected with seedling blight that do emerge appear normal, but a close inspection will reveal that the root systems have completely rotted away. Young plants that have been infected to this extent usually topple over before completely dying. If the top soil is dry, the shrivelled stem of an infected plant may persist for a while, but, in damp conditions, it will die within a few days. Since seedling blight remains throughout a plant's life, seedlings that survive the initial root damage will develop into weak plants that produce poor yields.

"If you want to get a good stand of canola", says Mr. Thomas, "use good seed and plant it at a depth of from a half to one inch in a firm, warm, moist, weed-free, fertile seedbed". Poor stands of canola that have become infected with seedling blight have invariably been sown too deeply, have been sown in loose soil or have been sown too deeply in loose soil. A good seedbed that provides an environment that will encourage rapid germination and emergence is extremely important because it reduces the possibility of infection by seedling blight. Shallow early spring tillage will help conserve moisture, aerate and help to warm up the soil and promote weed seed germination. Subsequent tillage operations should also be shallow and should be followed by packing with a rodweeder or harrows to firm up the seedbed.

Remember, a cool soil reduces germination, seedling vigor and the growth rate of young plants. It also increases the possibility of seedling blight. All canola varieties sown in warm soil (+15 ° C) germinate and emerge rapidly. Since Argentine canola varieties will have a higher percentage of seeds germinate and grow than Polish varieties at a soil temperature of 10° C, Argentine varieties can be sown earlier. However, if at all possible, do not sow them in soil that is cooler than 10 ° C.

Seed treatments that contain a fungicide will provide a fair amount of seedling protection from blight. Most seed treatments are dual purpose in that they contain a fungicide and an insecticide that will protect the newly emerged plants against flea beetles.

May 4, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOTANIC GARDEN SUMMER PROGRAM

"Alpine Gardens and Alpine Plants." That is the name of one of eight courses that will be held at the University of Alberta's Devonian Botanic Garden near Devon from May 24 to August 31.

If you are interested in these plants, this is an ideal opportunity for you to tour the university's alpine garden with a guide and to find out more about these hardy, miniature, mountain plants. The course will be held from one p.m. to 4 p.m. on May 24 and will cost $6.

"Introducing Plants to People" covers the history of some of the exotic plants at the botanic garden as well as information on their propagation and use in making an attractive garden. There are four sections to this course. The first is entitled "Spring Bulbs and Alpines" which will be held on May 27. The second, "Primroses and Herbaceous Plants", will be held on June 24. The third entitled "The Herb Garden" is scheduled for July 22 and the fourth "Trees and Shrubs" will be held on August 19. All the sections will take place from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and the charge for each section is $4.

"Rock Garden Construction" will provide those interested in making a rock garden with ideas for design and information on where to obtain materials and on construction techniques. It includes a tour of the rock gardens at the botanic garden and will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on June 17 and 24. The fee is $10.

"Pond Life" will involve a study of the plant and animal life found in waterways and ponds at the Devonian Botanic Garden. It will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on July 4 and will cost $12.

"My Very Own Garden —Harvesting" (children's course) will cover harvesting the vegetable garden and preparing it for the winter. This course will be held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on August 1 and again on September 5. The fee is $4.

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Botanic Garden Summer Program (cont'd)

"Preparing Your Garden for Winter" will include information on simple precautions that will help plants to survive the winter. It will also cover the over-winter storage of such tender plants as gladioli, begonias and dahlias. The course will be from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on August 25 and the fee is $6.

"Honey Extraction for Beekeepers" will include information on the use of smokers, blowers, chemicals, de-cappers, simple extractors, strainers, honey packing, storage and the overwintering of hives. It will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on August 31 and will cost $6.

"Mushroom Hunting for Beginners" will outline the characteristics of the main species of edible fungi found in Edmonton area and will cover poisonous species and symptoms of mushroom poisoning. Methods of preparing mushrooms and some recipes for dishes featuring mushrooms will also be included as well as field trips where collection and identification techniques will be demonstrated. The course is divided into three sections which will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on August 28, 29 and 30. The fee is $12 per section.

Because all the above courses emphasise developing practical skills, enrolment will be strictly limited, and to be sure of a place you must get your registration in early. Registrations must be accompanied by the full fee and they must be received no later than seven days before the course begins.

Cheques should be made payable to Friends of the Botanic Garden and mailed to Education, Devonian Botanic Garden, Room B414, Biological Sciences Building, University of Alberta, Edmonton, T6G 2E9.

For further information on any of the courses telephone: 987-3054.

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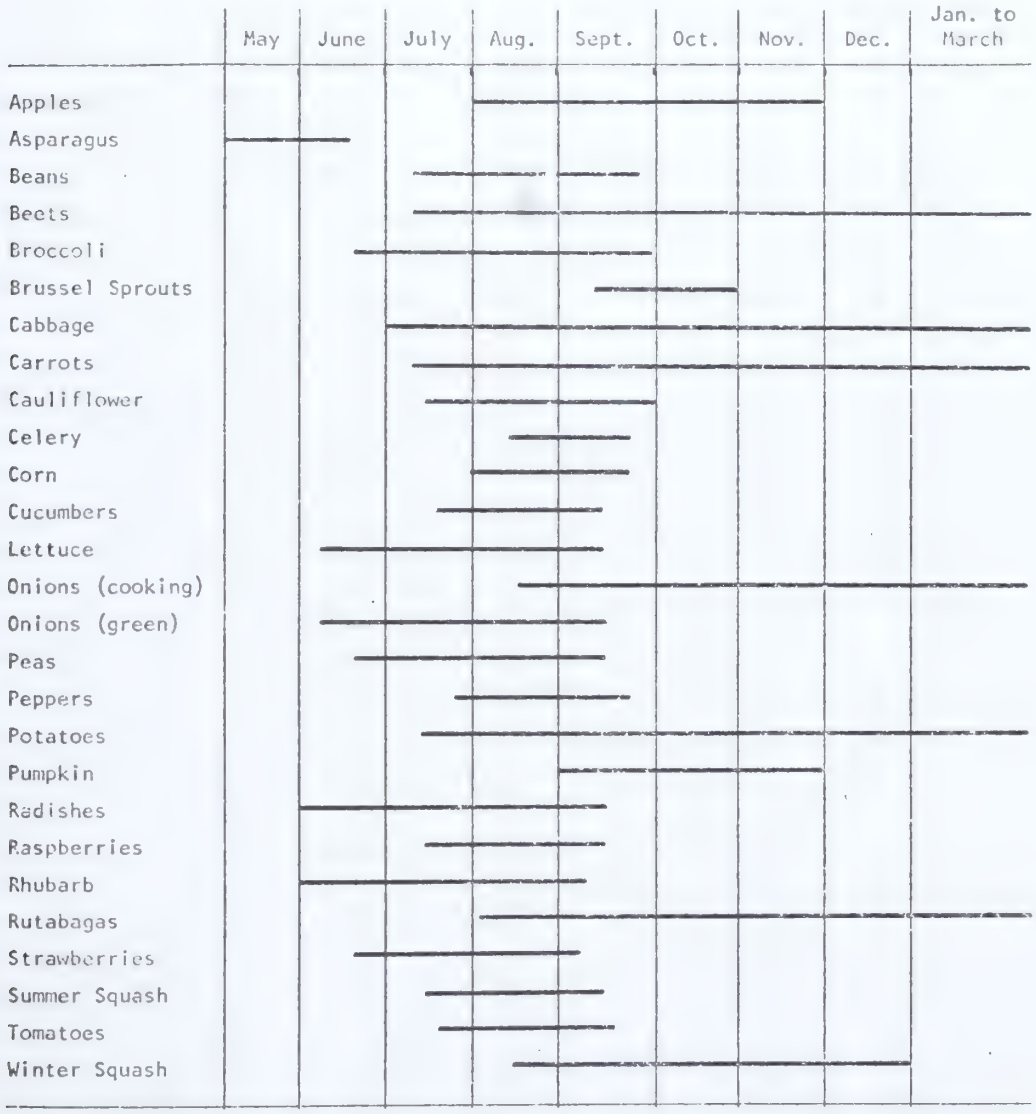
May 4, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AVAILABILITY OF ALBERTA GROWN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

The following chart has been compiled by the Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Brooks, to give consumers an idea when they can expect locally grown fruit and vegetables to be available on retail shelves and at the farm gate and at farmers' markets. Some variation will occur from year to year and from one location to another.



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USE OF CHLOROPHENOLS RESTRICTED

A group of chemicals called chlorophenols can no longer be used for the following purposes.

- as a wood preservative on the interior woodwork of farm buildings, feed bins, troughs, silos and stalls
- as a wood preservative for mushroom houses
- as a wood preservative for wooden feed containers
- as an agricultural miticide or disinfectant
- as an industrial herbicide for vegetation control
- as a spray treatment for home or garden uses

Some essential uses of wood preservatives, like the treatment of hydro and telephone poles, railway ties, fences, etc., are being allowed to continue for the time being. As new information becomes available this situation will be re-assessed.

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May 4, 1981

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NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE ADC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dallas W. Schmidt, Alberta's minister of agriculture, has announced the appointment of Gilbert Balderston to the board of directors of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC).

Mr. Balderston was raised on a farm in the Sexsmith area and is currently farming there. He has been involved in local activities and was chairman of the local agricultural development committee for the county of Grande Prairie. This committee is responsible for making recommendations to ADC on loans that are appealed.

With Mr. Balderston's experience in agriculture and related ADC activities, which have resulted from being on the local committee, he should prove a valuable member of the ADC board of directors.

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May 4, 1981

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DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED TO GRANDE PRAIRIE

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has announced the appointment of Karen Goad to the position of district home economist at Grande Prairie.

Ms. Goad comes from Ontario and obtained her B.Sc. (home economics) from the University of Western Ontario in 1977. She specialized in nutrition.

Following her graduation from the University of Western Ontario, she enrolled at the University of Manitoba for an additional year of study in the discipline of community nutrition. She then worked as a nutrition consultant with a health team on the Peguis Indian Reserve north of Winnipeg. Her work here involved designing and implementing a nutrition education program for native children. After this she moved to Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories where she has been employed as the executive director of the Yellowknife Branch of the Consumer's Association of Canada for the past two years.

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May 4, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the appointment of Irene Hastings to the position of district home economist at Peace River.

Ms. Hastings comes from Windsor, Ontario. She later moved to Vancouver and then to Whitehorse where she worked for a year at the airport. Following that she spent a year in Europe and then worked in Montreal before going to Carlton University for a year. In 1976 she transferred to the University of Alberta and graduated with a B.Sc. (home economics) in 1980, having majored in food and nutrition.

Ms. Hastings joined Alberta Agriculture as district home economist in-training in October of 1980. She took her training at Manning under the direction of Karen Hoover.

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May 11, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM CASH RECEIPTS*

by P.D. Jensen
Alberta Agriculture

Alberta farm cash receipts are projected to increase significantly in 1981. Improved prices for both wheat and barley combined with much higher grain deliveries and movement will raise farm cash receipts to $3,687 million, up by 20 per cent from 1980.

Wheat farm cash receipts, projected at a record $1,015 million in 1981, will be the major source of income for many Alberta farmers this year. The Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) initial payment for wheat is presently at a record level and only a slight decrease is expected for the next crop year (starting August 1, 1981). The movement of wheat during the first three months of 1981 has been very strong, and this trend is expected to continue because there are now relatively fewer restrictions on grain movement. It also appears that wheat production will be up in 1981. Statistics Canada's March Seeding Intentions indicates Alberta's wheat acreage will increase by approximately 7 per cent, and farm cash receipts from wheat, projected at $1,015 million in 1981, are up by 56 per cent from $651 million in 1980.

Farm cash receipts from barley are also expected to increase sharply in 1981. International feed grain prices are higher than last year, and, if smaller than normal world crops are harvested, further price increases are a distinct possibility. If international price increases occur, it will probably result in some increase in off-board prices and CWB initial payments for barley. Farm deliveries and barley movement are projected to be up significantly in 1981 due to improvements in the grain handling and transportation system. Farmers appear to have responded to improved barley prices as March intentions indicate a record 6.3 million acres will be planted in 1981. If grain movement remains steady and international prices show

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Farm Cash Receipts* (cont'd)

more strength, Alberta farmers should be able to dispose of most of their barley at acceptable prices. Farm cash receipts from barley are projected at $475 million, representing an increase of 54 per cent over 1980.

Canola (rapeseed) farm cash receipts are expected to decline again in 1981. International oilseed prices have been falling during the past year, and, while some improvement may occur later in 1981, supplies appear high enough to prevent significant price increases during the rest of this year. Canola acreages on the Prairies will be reduced for the second consecutive year. This will result in lower stocks and should cause prices inland to increase relative to the ports. Deliveries of rapeseed in 1981 will be reduced as farmers are unlikely to sell a significant volume at present prices. Farm cash receipts from canola are projected to be $233 million in 1981, down from $271 million in 1980.

Flaxseed farm cash receipts are also projected to decline in 1981. Deliveries during the first quarter of 1981 have been small as prices have been lower than expected. The flaxseed acreage in 1981 is expected to decrease as a result of lower oilseed prices, and the consequent build up of farm stocks. Rye farm cash receipts are expected to increase in 1981 due to higher deliveries and improved prices. Farm cash receipts from flaxseed and rye in 1981 are projected to be $17 million and $36 million respectively.

Sugar beet producers benefited from much improved prices in 1980 and farm cash receipts increased by 95 per cent over 1979. However, international sugar prices have subsequently fallen from their 1980 levels, and farm cash receipts from sugar beets in 1981 are now projected to be $32 million, down from $41 million in 1980.

Farm cash receipts from cattle and calves are expected to increase slightly in 1981. Supplies of red meat in North America are somewhat burdensome at present, and cattle prices will not increase appreciably until supply reductions occur. Alberta slaughter cattle

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Farm Cash Receipts* (cont'd)

prices and marketings are both expected to average slightly higher in 1981, which will result in a small increase in farm cash receipts. Cattle farm cash receipts are projected at $1,255 million, up 6 per cent from 1980.

Farm cash receipts from hogs in 1981 will show some recovery from last year. Since North America pork supplies appear to be declining, 1981 prices should average higher. Alberta hog marketings are also expected to increase in 1981, which will further increase farm cash receipts. The provincial government's Hog Subsidy Program ended April 1, 1981, after having paid out $4.4 million to Alberta producers this year. A joint producer-government stabilization program to replace the hog subsidy program is under consideration. Farm cash receipts from hogs are projected to be $203 million in 1981, up 22 per cent from 1980.

Farm cash receipts from dairy are increasing steadily in Alberta due to cost of production pricing combined with increased consumption. Farm cash receipts from dairy in 1981 are projected at $175 million, up 18 per cent from 1980.

Farm cash receipts from poultry are expected to increase again in 1981. Chicken and turkey prices are forecast to increase by 12 - 15 per cent. Although turkey production will decrease, chicken production should be up about 8 per cent. Producer prices for eggs should also increase by about 10 per cent in 1981. Farm cash receipts from poultry and eggs are projected to be $75 million and $41 million, up 19 per cent and 8 per cent respectively.

Total farm cash receipts are proejcted to be $3,687 million in 1981, an increase of 20 per cent over 1980. After a slight decline in 1980, realized net income is projected to increase by 37 per cent in 1981 to $911 million.

** Because of the changing nature of factors affecting this outlook, anyone wishing to make reference to its contents, in whole or in part, after May 31, 1981 is requested to consult the author.*

May 11, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEED GRAIN OUTLOOK*

Country elevator prices for barley are expected to trade in the $130 to $140 per tonne range between now and mid-summer. Les Lyster of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch favors selling to the Canadian Wheat Board at prices below $135 per tonne.

Statistics Canada's March 15 Planting Intentions Report indicates that Canadian farmers intend to plant 13.17 million acres of barley this spring, which would represent a 10 per cent increase compared with 1980 and be the second largest barley acreage ever planted. Assuming about 4 per cent of this acreage is harvested as forage, the acreage harvested for grain would be 12.7 million acres. If yields are normal, the 1981 Canadian barley crop would be around 12 million tonnes.

The switch to barley in Alberta is even more pronounced. Farmers here intend to plant a record 6.3 million acres, which would be 12 per cent above the 1980 acreage. With this acreage the Alberta barley crop will be nearly 6 million tonnes if average yields are realized.

Domestic feed grain usage in Canada during the 1981-82 crop year will probably be similar to the current level. Given the expecation that the world feed grain balance will remain fairly tight and that Canada only accounts for 3 to 4 per cent of this market, the increased volume of barley should find willing buyers at competitive prices. However, in light of the removal of the American grain embargo, U.S. feed grains could again provide additional competition in the Soviet market. On the other hand, if an aggressive export program is pursued, Canadian barley exports could increase during the 1981-82 crop year — perhaps to 4.5 million tonnes. In this case, Canada could experience some increase in her barley carryover stocks, but they are not expected to be burdensome as of July 31, 1982.

**Because of the changing nature of factors affecting this outlook, anyone wishing to make reference to its contents, in whole or in part, after May 31, 1981 is requested to consult the author.*

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May 11, 1981

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OILSEED OUTLOOK*

June rapeseed futures have traded in the $335 to the $350 per tonne range since mid-January, but basis levels have narrowed somewhat in recent weeks resulting in a modest improvement in country prices. Nearby rapeseed futures are expected to trade close to current levels until mid-summer. However, some additional narrowing of the basis could take place over the next few months resulting in slightly improved country prices. The current situation presents reasonable hedging opportunities for the new rapeseed/canola crop because of the full carrying charges in the rapeseed futures market until January 1982.

Statistics Canada's March 15 Planting Intentions Report indicates that Canadian farmers intend to seed approximately 4 million acres of rapeseed/canola this spring, representing a drop of 22 per cent compared with 1980. Thus, the 1981 acreage is projected to be less than half the large 1979 acreage and will be the smallest since 1977. Although the final 1981 acreage could vary somewhat from the Statistics Canada estimate, Les Lyster of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch believes the estimate reflects the thinking of farmers at this time reasonably accurately. However, the acreage will ultimately depend upon seeding conditions, farmer reaction to increased elevator and crusher quotas and the modest improvement in country elevator prices during the past few weeks.

Alberta farmers have indicated that they will reduce their rapeseed acreage by more than farmers in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The March Planting Intentions Report shows that farmers in this province intend to plant 1.5 million acres in 1981 or 32 per cent less than they planted in 1980. Based on this acreage and average yields, Alberta's 1981 production will be around 0.715 million tonnes.

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Oilseed Outlook* (cont'd)

If rapeseed/canola yields are average this year, Canadian production will be approximately 1.95 million tonnes. A crop of this size would result in total 1981-82 supplies of 3.1 to 3.2 million tonnes. Assuming usage in the 1981-82 crop year similar to that of the current crop year, the carryover on July 31, 1982 would be around 300,000 tonnes, which is very low. Hence, the rapeseed/canola situation is expected to switch from one of somewhat burdensome carryover stocks to a point next summer when they are expected to be precariously low.

Because Canada produces only one to 2 per cent of the world's oilseeds, the anticipated reduction in Canadian oilseed production will have only a minor impact on the world oilseed supply/demand balance. However, the dramatically tighter Canadian supply/demand situation is expected to result in narrower basis levels during the 1981-82 crop year than has been the case during the past year. Mr. Lyster anticipates large rapeseed/canola elevator quotas well before the end of the 1981-82 crop year.

**Because of the changing nature of factors affecting this outlook, anyone wishing to make reference to its contents, in whole or in part, after May 31, 1981 is requested to consult the author.*

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May 11, 1981

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SUGAR OUTLOOK

World sugar prices suggest that returns of $55 to $60 per tonne for the 1980 sugar beet crop may be in order for Alberta growers. Prospective returns for the 1981 crop have also been reduced significantly, and it is likely that there could be some difficulty in achieving the 1980 return level.

Bob Prather of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch reports that Alberta's monthly wholesale sugar prices, which form the basis for grower returns, were considerably higher than the previous year's level for the 1980 crop until April when world sugar prices decreased. At this time Alberta's wholesale prices dropped significantly.

The processing campaign for the 1980 Alberta sugar beet crop concluded in mid-February with approximately 60,000 tonnes of beet sugar having been extracted from 524,000 tonnes of beets. This was the second consecutive year that the extraction level was below normal.

Mr. Prather says that the low level of extraction is being attributed to the deterioration of the sugar beets in storage piles during the season and the extension of the processing season.

However, refined sugar output is expected to be adequate to meet market requirements between now and the processing of the 1981 crop, given the currently reduced demand in Alberta and northern Saskatchewan. Any significant increase in demand could again necessitate moving refined cane sugar from British Columbia into Alberta this fall.

Mr. Prather expects lower beet sugar consumption and limited plant capacity in Taber to hold the contracted acreage in Alberta close to last year's level of 35,600 acres, and the harvested acreage should remain around 34,000 acres. However, a return to a more normal sugar extraction level would bring 1981 refined sugar production to nearly 65,000 tonnes.

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May 11, 1981

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RAIL AND TRUCKING FREIGHT RATES INCREASE

Nabi Chaudhary of Alberta Agriculture's production economics branch reports that rail freight rates on dressed meats will be increased by 4 per cent on May 15 (they increased by 10.6 per cent in January) and that rail freight rates have already increased on the following agricultural products.

- Live cattle by 13.5 per cent on May 1
- Livestock within Western Canada by 14 per cent on April 1
- Grain and grain products by 14 per cent on April 1
- Alfalfa products (domestic market to Eastern Canada) by 14 per cent on April 1
- Rapeseed meal to Eastern markets by 7 to 20 per cent on February 24. Export meal rates via Eastern Canada were increased by 7 to 17 per cent, and export meal rates via the West Coast were increased by 10 to 18 per cent (average 13.2 per cent) on box cars and by 5 to 13 per cent (average 9.5 per cent) on hopper cars
- Rapeseed oil to Eastern Canada by about 10 per cent on February 24. Export rates to the East and West Coasts were increased by 10 per cent, but there have been a few reduction in rates to Maritime points
- Agricultural implements by 13 per cent on February 15

Trucking freight rates were increased at the beginning of this year by about 8 per cent on agricultural commodities. The commodities mosts affected were livestock and poultry feed, livestock, meats (fresh and frozen), fertilizers and other agricultural chemicals, potatoes and fruits and vegetables (fresh, frozen and cold pack).

Mr. Chaudhary expects trucking rates to increase further this year as a result of escalating gasoline prices.

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May 11, 1981

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CONTROLLING SPRING INSECT PESTS

The following insects are expected to cause problems in many parts of Alberta this spring, according to Michael Dolinski, entomologist and pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture. He recommends the control measure stated below.

Forest Tent Caterpillars

If you are in an area that is heavily infested with forest tent caterpillars, the only way you can control them is by spraying with one of the following insecticides: Sevin, Diazinon, Malathion, Methoxychlor, Dylox or Biological Insecticide. Biological Insecticide contains bacteria and does as good a job of controlling the caterpillars as the conventional insecticides, providing it is applied when the caterpillars are not larger than 1-1.5 cm long. It will also control larger caterpillars, but in this case it will take at least three or four days to work.

Flea Beetles

Rapeseed plants that show 20-25 per cent leaf damage from flea beetles (tiny, black, jumping beetles) should normally be sprayed with Guthion, Furadan, Malathion or Supracide. However, under ideal growing conditions, plants which have sustained 20 per cent damage to their leaves may be able to recover without being sprayed. Since flea beetles invade a crop from the edges of the field, it is sometimes only necessary to treat around the perimeter of the crop, depending upon how far the beetles have penetrated the field.

Cutworms

If you notice bare patches in your newly emerged crops, check the soil in these areas for cutworms. If you should find three or four per square metre, check various places in the rest of the field by sifting the soil through a screen to a depth of 5 cm. Should you find a similar number of cutworms in these places, spray the crop with Lorsban. Spraying should be done in the evening when the cutworms come out to feed.

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Controlling Spring Insect Pests (cont'd)

Grasshoppers

If you find more than seven to 12 grasshoppers per square metre in your crops, or 13 to 24 per square metre along the roadsides, you will probably have to spray with Furadan, Dimethoate or Malathion. It may be necessary to spray when grasshopper numbers are below those cited above if the crops are under stress.

Mr. Dolinski says that all stocks of Dimethoate that are obtained this year or were obtained in past years from Alberta Agriculture through county and municipal offices are 25 per cent below strength, due to long-term storage. He points out that to compensate for this situation, the application rate stated on the label must be increased by 25 per cent.

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May 11, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW CANOLA VARIETIES

Andor is a newly licensed, high yielding, early maturing Argentine canola variety, which produces seed with a low glucosinolate content and oil with a low erucic acid content.

Developed by the University of Alberta's Department of Plant Science, Andor is most suitable to the long growing season areas of central and northern Alberta. Its days to maturity are the same as those for Altex, and one to three days less than required by Regent, Tower and Midas. However, it is higher yielding than any of these varieties.

Andor is similar in quality from the point of view of oil, protein, erucic acid and glucosinolate content to Altex because it was selected from the same plant breeding population. Andor produces plants that are the same height as those produced by Altex, but shorter than those produced by Regent, Tower or Midas.

Andor has been released to Cen Alta Seeds Ltd. This Alberta firm has already contracted the production of foundation seed for this year from the limited amount of breeder seed it received. Hence, foundation seed will be available through contract with Cen Alta Seeds Ltd for 1982 planting, and certified seed will be available to Alberta canola growers in the spring of 1983.

New Polish Variety

A new Polish canola variety was recently recommended for licensing. It is known as DH 716 but will shortly receive a name, possibly Tobin. Its release will ensure the complete changeover to low erucic and low glucosinolate varieties in Alberta.

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New Canola Varieties (cont'd)

Developed by the federal research station in Saskatoon, DH 716 is best suited to the shorter growing season areas of central and northern Alberta. It is 7 to 8 per cent higher yielding than Candle and nearly one per cent higher in oil content, and its oil contains less than one per cent erucic acid. Its protein content, meal quality, glucosinolate content, days to maturity, plant height and seed characteristics are all similar to those of Candle.

DH 716 also possesses a good level of tolerance to staghead disease and is the first Polish variety with this characteristic. It has been released to SeCan for distribution of breeder seed to its members this spring. Foundation seed will be available to SeCan members for the 1982 planting season, and certified seed will be available to canola growers in this province in the spring of 1983.

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May 11, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HERBICIDE CONTROL OF CANADA THISTLE RESULTS

Results obtained to date from the use of a number of herbicides on Canada thistle in eight summerfallow fields from Oyen to Peace River showed that they did not provide consistent control in all regions, and that they all appeared to work better in southern Alberta than in central and northern areas. The difference in results might have been due to the dryer conditions that prevailed in southern Alberta or to the difference in soil.

The experiment was carried out by Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch in the fall of 1979 and involved the use of Roundup, Amitrol-T, Lontrel D, Banvel, Embutox E and 2,4-D. Lontrel D is a new herbicide which may be on the market soon. Even though thistle control varied throughout the province, the ranking of the six herbicides according to effectiveness at each location was consistent.

Roundup (32 ounces per acre of active ingredient) sprayed areas had an average of 5 per cent regrowth over the next 12 months. Amitrol-T (64 ounces per acre) sprayed areas had an average regrowth of 23 per cent; Lontrel D (15 ounces per acre) sprayed areas had an average regrowth of 33 per cent; Banvel (16 ounces per acre) sprayed areas had an average regrowth of 57 per cent; Embutox-E (32 ounces per acre) sprayed areas had an average regrowth of 109 per cent; and 2,4-D (24 ounces per acre) sprayed areas had an average regrowth of 114 per cent.

Since the most expensive herbicides usually give the best and most consistent control, one has to decide which way to go with their thistle problems, according to Dan Cole of Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch. He says "Just keeping Canada thistle under control can involve mowing, cultivating and/or the use of a more economical and less efficient herbicide. A person can wipe out thistles by these methods if conditions are right or if the opera-

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tions are repeated often enough to deplete root reserves of the thistles. The other way to go is to try for total eradication, which usually involves the use of a more expensive herbicide that will translocate well down into the roots of the plants and to use follow up control measures to catch any plants that may have escaped."

Whether you are just trying to keep Canada thistle under control or trying to eradicate them, the key is persistence, according to Mr. Cole. He says regular monitoring and persistent control efforts usually pay off in the end.

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May 11, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CENSUS PROFILES FAMILY FARM

An updated profile of Canadian family farms is expected to emerge from the federal 1981 Census of Agriculture, which will be taken at the beginning of June. It will help to measure, among other things, the impact of the scale and the intensity of farming on agriculture and the farm family in the different regions of the country.

From past censuses we know that the family farm appears to be surviving the trend towards larger, specialized farms and incorporation. The 1976 census reported that more than 95 per cent of all farm operations were run by individuals, families or partnerships. Another 3.5 per cent were listed as corporate family farms and fewer than one per cent were operated by non-family corporations.

The size and intensity of operations, however, have undergone major changes over the past four decades. Between the 1941 and 1976 censuses, the total number of farms in Canada decreased from a peak of 732,832 to 338,578 and the average farm size more than doubled from 237 acres to 499.

Corporate family farms and other legally constituted company farms are on the increase, according to the 1971 and 1976 censuses. These holdings doubled in number between those years.

Farms of all types are becoming more capital intensive. The average value of farms -- the value of land, buildings, machinery, equipment, livestock and poultry -- increased 11-fold between 1941 and 1976, from $5,788 to $65,736. Even after allowing for inflation, this figure represents a considerable increase in capitalization. A closely related trend is the migration of Canadians away from their agricultural roots. In 1931 nearly one-third of all Canadians lived on farms, compared with only 5 per cent in 1976.

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Census Profiles Family Farm (cont'd)

Even the personal qualities needed for successful farming have changed with increases in mechanization and systemized production. A strong back is of less importance today than skills in managing a large-scale operation, cropping rotations or breeding programs and bookkeeping and marketing know-how. In addition, many farmers supplement their incomes with jobs away from their farms. These jobs may range from logging to teaching and require a whole extra set of skills.

Census data show that farm income is strongly influenced by region. Fewer Eastern farmers than Prairie farmers report farming to be their major source of income. In 1971 only 31.4 per cent of farmers in the Atlantic Provinces and 32 per cent of farmers in central Canada earned more than half of their income from farming, compared with 49 per cent of Prairie farmers. On the average, families that depended totally on their farms earned less than families with off-farm incomes.

Family labor remained the backbone of modern agriculture up to 1976. Family farms used an average of only 7.6 weeks of paid labor each year, and only 30.5 per cent of these farms reported any hired help. Corporate family farms used an average of 72 weeks paid labor per year, and 54 per cent reported using hired help. Corporate non-family farms, on the other hand, used an average of 128 weeks of hired labor, and 53 per cent reported using hired help.

And, although corporate family farms have increased in number during the past few decades, the individual or family farm was still more than holding its own up to 1976 in relation to other types.

Census data document the situation of the family farm, a situation that is a response to the particular problems and challenges each generation of farm families has had to face during economic depressions and booms, drought, war, mechanization, changing social

Census Profiles Family Farm (cont'd)

values and rising expectations. Trends have developed, some of which have been irreversible, while other are possibly temporary. New data from the 1981 census might well show, for example, that the migration of young people to the cities has lessened in light of rising farm incomes and federal-provincial initiatives to help young potential farmers stay on the land. In the case of trends like mechanization and increasing energy consumption, it is a matter of finding out how much more and how quickly.

The 1981 census is expected to answer more questions than it asks. Undoubtedly, it will give us an updated picture of what has happened to the Canadian farm family in the eighth decade of this century and, by extension, a little of what is likely to happen in the ninth decade.

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May 11, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1981 FARMERS' MARKET SEASON

Have you seen the 1981-82 Farmers' Market Calendar? You will be fascinated by all the unusual recipes and useful information that it contains in addition to listing all the markets in Alberta and the opening and closing dates of those that operate only during the summer.

The following are examples of the type of information contained in the new calendar — spray a bit of starch or hairspray on your fingers when threading a needle to make threading easier — a mix of cool white and warm white tubes provide the best light for growing transplants under fluorescent lamps — styrofoam egg cartons can be used to grow transplants if you make a small hole in the bottom for drainage — boil the papery outer skin of onions to make a bright yellow dye or boil beets to make a bright red dye for coloring Easter eggs.

The 1980-81 Farmers' Market Calendar will also tell you the specialities of specific markets (e.g. feather quilts and pillows at the Castledowns market in Edmonton) and the special events the various markets have planned.

If you patronize farmers' markets you should also get a copy of a publication entitled "Farmers' Markets 1981". It contains a map to show you the location of each of the more than 90 markets in the province, and it tells you the exact location of the markets in all the cities and towns that hold them. It also tells you the opening and closing dates of the markets and the days of the week and the hours that each market is open. In addition, it gives you the telephone number of individual markets so that you can check to see if a specific market has the items you are looking for.

The 1981-82 Farmers' Market Calendar and copies of "Farmers' Markets — 1981" can be obtained from farmers' markets, Travel Alberta and other tourist information outlets and the Commodity Development Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 (Telephone:427-4017).

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AGRI-NEWS

JUN 1 1981

May 18, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
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May 18, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHEAT OUTLOOK*

Wheat prices are expected to have increased by $10 to $20 per tonne by next fall from their current levels. They have or will soon reach the seasonal low.

Les Lyster, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, does not anticipate any further serious price weakening, and he believes that most of the potential increase in 1981-82 world wheat supplies has already been taken into account by the market.

He points out that the outcome of the 1981-82 world wheat crop will, as usual, depend heavily upon crop developments during the next four months in the main northern hemisphere wheat producing countries. Current prospects point to increased world wheat production in 1981-82, and a 470 million tonne wheat crop could result if weather conditions are generally favorable. If such a crop is realized, total world wheat supplies in the coming crop year would reach approximately 540 million tonnes or 20 million tonnes above the 1980-81 level.

Since world wheat usage tends to increase by approximately 10 million tonnes a year, it could reach 460 million tonnes in 1981-82. Production and usage of this magnitude would result in a 1981-82 carryover of 79 million tonnes; up 10 million tonnes from the current crop year level and virtually the same as that of 1979-80. Although carryover stocks could build up somewhat during the 1981-82 crop year, current prospects indicate that the world wheat supply/demand situation will remain moderately tight.

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Wheat Outlook* (cont'd)

Mr. Lyster expects total Canadian wheat exports for the current crop year to slightly exceed those of 1979-80 and to be around 16 million tonnes. The domestic usage of wheat during the present crop year is expected to be marginally above the 1979-80 level and carryover stocks as of July 31, 1981 are expected to be approximately 8 million tonnes. This will be the lowest level of carryover stocks since 1975-76 and possibly the lowest since 1952-53.

As of March 15 Canadian farmers indicated that they intend to plant 29.67 million acres of wheat this spring, which would be 8 per cent above the 1980 acreage and the largest since the record acreage in 1966. The Canadian durum acreage is expected to be around 3.6 million acres or 16 per cent above that of 1980. Assuming more or less normal yields, the 1981 Canadian wheat crop would be approximately 22.5 million tonnes. However, in view of the decreasing stocks during the current crop year, total Canadian wheat supplies for 1981-82 are not likely to exceed those of 1980-81 by more than 0.5 to one million tonnes.

Alberta farmers have indicated in Statistics Canada's March 15 survey that they intend to plant a near record 6.3 million acres of wheat this spring, representing a 7 per cent increase over the 1980 acreage. Based on an average Alberta wheat yield of about 28 bushels per acre, the province's wheat production would be around 4.8 million tonnes.

**Because of the changing nature of factors affecting this outlook, persons wishing to make reference to its contents, in whole or in part, after May 31, 1981 are requested to consult the author.*

May 18, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM BUSINESS CONTRACTS

Since farming has become more commercial as well as technically more sophisticated over the years, it is not uncommon for farmers to be involved in a wide range of contracts at one time.

Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch has just released a new publication entitled "Farm Business Contracts" that is designed to help the farming community to understand the basic concepts and some of the important areas of contracts. To do this it analyzes contracts in general, provides information about contracts for which a farmer is unlikely to seek legal assistance and attempts to prepare farmers for discussing contracts with their lawyer in cases where legal services are likely to be used.

The following examples taken from the publication are intended to indicate the complexity of a contract.

Certainty in a Contract

John has a five-year lease with Bill on some land with an option that says "renewable for another five year-term at a price to be agreed upon". Is this option binding?

No. In this case the two parties have an agreement to agree on the price, but really there is no agreement at all since no one can force them to agree.

Direct Sales Cancellation Act

I bought a 3,500-bushel steel granary from a dealer who visited my farm. After considering the transaction, I felt that I did not wish to keep the granary. Could I cancel the contract?

Yes. Under the Direct Sales Cancellation Act, a buyer has four days in which to cancel a contract after he has received the sales agreement. However, this act is intended to cover only sales made by a salesman who comes to your home. It does not apply to sales at

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Farm Business Contracts (cont'd)

the seller's place of business, a market place, an auction market or a fair.

Real Estate Contracts

I made an offer to purchase a quarter section from my neighbor for $1,500 per acre, including all the buildings affixed to the land. He accepted my offer, and I understand that we have a binding contract of sale. However, the other day I noticed that he had removed all the wooden granaries from the property. When I approached him, he stated that since the wooden granaries were on skids, they were not classified as buildings and were legally his. Is this true?

Yes. Granaries attached to skids are not considered to be firmly attached to the land and are thus not affixed to the property. On the other hand, bins on a concrete base would be considered affixed to the property. To avoid this problem it is definitely better to spell out in the contract what is to be sold and what is not.

When Should You See a Lawyer?

I purchased a half section of land last fall and checked the title for any encumbrances or liens. Everything appear to be in order. However, this spring my neighbor informed me that he has a two-year lease on the property and that he fully intends to farm my land. Can he do this?

Yes. If a lease is for more than three years, either the lease itself must be registered or a caveat filed. If the lease is not registered in either of these ways, it will not be protected if the land is sold. However, if the lease is for less than three years, it is still good even if the property is sold and the lease was not registered or a caveat filed. This is the type of situation many people would miss, but a lawyer would normally detect.

Copies of "Farm Business Contracts" (Agdex 817-9) can be obtained from district agriculturists,the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8 or the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO.

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May 11, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTROLLING POCKET GOPHERS ON GRASSLAND WITH 2, 4-D

Pocket gophers, also known as moles, on grassland can be greatly reduced or eliminated with 2, 4-D.

The head of the problem wildlife section of the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, Dr. M.J. Dorrance, explains that the diet of pocket gophers is made up of predominantly broadleaved plants, preferably dandelions, and that when these are eliminated with 2, 4-D, the gophers starve. They are apparently unable to live on a diet of grasses.

Personnel from the problem wildlife section treated one-half of a timothy-brome grass hay field on the Bar S Ranch near Nanton with 2, 4-D ester at a rate of 1.1 kg/ha (1 lb/acre) active ingredient during May of 1979. The treatment very nearly eliminated the dandelions, and other broadleaved plants in the area were reduced by half. The result was that the pocket gopher population on the treated area had been reduced by 67 per cent by August of that year and mounding had been reduced by 84 per cent by August of the following year.

Dr. Dorrance says there was no evidence to suggest that the gophers had moved to other areas. It appears that the females which gave birth in June were unable to provide their young with adequate nutrition, and that the reduced population was the result of a sharp increase in juvenile mortality.

A few pocket gophers that remained in the treated area tended to be found in low spots in the field where the herbicide treatment had been less effective. Dr. Dorrance says that

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Controlling Pocket Gophers On Grassland With 2, 4-D (cont'd)

if all the gophers, as opposed to a portion of them, were removed from a grass hay field or pasture, the interval between treatments could be extended by two or three years. He recommends spot treating a field that has been treated with 2, 4-D about two years after the initial application. And he says that any remaining pocket gophers should be eliminated by treating vegetation that is within about 15 metres (15 yards) of their mounds.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA CHEMIST AWARDED A FELLOWSHIP IN THE CHEMICAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA

An Albertan is to be awarded a fellowship in the Chemical Institute of Canada at its national conference in Halifax on May 31 to June 3. She is Mrs. K.I. Strausz, provincial analyst and director of the toxicology section of Alberta Agriculture's reference laboratories.

Mrs. Strausz, who emigrated to Canada from Hungary in 1956 and joined the laboratory in 1958, is only the third chemist to be given the title of provincial analyst and director of the toxicology laboratory since it was established in 1915. She has held that position for the past 15 years, and has made major contributions to the advancement of the analyses carried out by the laboratory. She has, for example, developed a wide range of industrial quality control analyses, human toxicological analyses, water analyses and quality control analyses for the Alberta Liquor Control Board.

Also, under her leadership, Alberta Agriculture's animal health division's reference branch toxicology laboratory has developed analytical procedures and written laboratory manuals for all aspects of veterinary analyses including pioneer work in the analyses of selenium and its significance to animal health. Her work has resulted in Alberta's veterinary community having toxicology services which include the analyses in animal specimens of blood, stomach contents, tissues and urine for trace metals, electrolytes, clinical chemistry, drugs, poisons, etc. as well as quality control analyses on potable water for agricultural use.

In addition to the above, Mrs. Strausz pioneered a wide variety of analytical forensic analyses prior to the inception in 1971 of the RCMP's crime detection laboratory. And she is still providing forensic analytical services for street drugs to all authorized police forces, including the RCMP. Her reputation as a forensic expert witness in Alberta's courts of law is unsurpassed!

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA COMPENSATION PROGRAM FOR BEAR DAMAGE

The Alberta Compensation Program for Bear Damage in Beeyards will operate on the same basis as last year but there are a number of important changes.

The changes are:

. Compensation rates for the loss of bees and equipment have been increased by about 25 per cent compared with last year's rates to cover inflation.

. Beekeepers can put their undamaged hives back into production immediately, providing they set aside the damaged frames. Last year they had to wait until the damage had been inspected.

. All individual claims that exceed $200 and all cumulative losses in a calendar year that exceed $500 must be verified by a government official. Last year individual claims that exceeded $100 and cumulative claims that exceeded $300 had to be verified.

. All bear damage must be reported to a fish and wildlife officer within 24 hours of it having occurred (telephone reports will be acceptable). Last year only those beekeepers who desired bear control assistance had to report their damage.

To qualify under the Alberta Compensation Program for Bear Damage in Beeyards, beekeeping operations must, as was the case last year, be registered under the Alberta Bee Act and they must contain at least 40 active hives. And the beeyard must be enclosed by a properly operating electric fence.

Compensation will be paid for cumulative losses that exceed $100 per beekeeping operation in a calendar year, but they cannot exceed $5,000. Any claim that does not require an inspection must be accompanied by a photograph and an affidavit which has been signed by a notary public or commissioner of oaths (DA's, and fish and wildlife officers are commissioners of oaths). They must be submitted to a district agriculturist within seven days of the discovery of the damage.

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Alberta Compensation Program For Bear Damage (cont'd)

The program does not cover lost honey or lost production.

Damage claims, which will be considered at the end of the bear damage season, can be submitted for each case of damage or they can be accumulated if they are for less than $100. The deadline for submitting all claims is December 31, 1981.

Further information on the Alberta Compensation for Bear Damage in Beeyards and information on approved electric fences can be obtained from district agriculturists, agricultural fieldmen and fish and wildlife officers.

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May 18, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROADSIDE BRUSH CONTROL

Arnold Stearman
Weed Control Branch, Alberta Agriculture

Now that the fog surrounding the status of 2,4-D is clearing a little, it appears that low volatile esters and amines will be available on the general market. However, the high volatile materials, butyl esters, will be available only until present stocks are exhausted.

Although 2,4, 5-T is still a registered product for use on roadsides, with certain restrictions, we question whether any municipality would be wise to use 2,4, 5-T. The cost is very high in relation to the results which may be expected. Really, the only brush species on which 2,4, 5-T does a superior job is the wild rose, and, if equal dollars were spent on 2,4-D, Tordon 101 or DyCleer 2:4, and if the application was well done, there would be no advantage in using 2,4, 5-T.

Probably just as important as the choice of chemical is the method of application. All brush control chemical labels when describing the application of these products state "spray thoroughly from all sides of the plant to the point of run-off". This high volume spray is the secret of good brush kill, and of killing some of the more resistant weeds.

Always remember that chemicals which control weeds and brush will also kill ornamental shrubs and trees and garden plants. When using these products, be very certain that no chemical is applied outside the target area. One of the best ways to ensure that this does not happen is to spray nothing taller than 1 m. Because the spray is directed downwards in such situations, there is far less chance that it will drift over non-target areas, and, for that matter, over the spray operator.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CENSUS VITAL FARM ECONOMY

The census of agriculture, which will be taken on June 3, is the corner stone of a modern agricultural information network that has helped to make Canadian agriculture the envy of the world.

It is a massive research project that is undertaken every five years by Statistics Canada to provide a basic inventory of Canadian agriculture. This inventory consists of information on farm land, crops, livestock, equipment, machinery, fertilizers, labor, capital and many other relevant aspects of farming.

The information that is provided by Canadian farmers contributes to the development and operation of nearly every federal and provincial agricultural policy and program, and it also contributes, in one way or another, to nearly every aspect of agricultural planning and research that is undertaken by governments, industry, educational institutions, farm organizations and individual farmers.

Census data gives policy-makers, farmers and researchers much of the information they need before deciding on a course of action. Such data indicate the nature, location and scope of agricultural enterprises and production capabilities. A comparison of information obtained from one census to another points out how agriculture has changed in the intervening years, while an analysis over time, and comparisons between one region and another enable the analysts to isolate situations which should be brought to the attention of the policy-makers and the agricultural industry.

Census data and supporting farm surveys are used to formulate many provincial agricultural acts and have been used to formulate more than 20 federal acts. These include the Agricultural Stabilization Act, the Canadian Wheat Board Act, the Farm Credit Act and the

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Census Vital To Farm Energy (cont'd)

Farm Improvement Loans Act. The census of agriculture is the only survey that collects comprehensive data on production factors, and, thereby, provides guidelines for most of the other agricultural data that are collected periodically by Statistics Canada.

Agricultural statistics are also useful for estimating the capacity of the farming industry to meet both domestic and international food requirements and for developing strategies involved in the export of agricultural products. These are an important source of income for farmers and of foreign exchange for the economy in general. Without census data, crop estimates used for international commodity trade might be too high or too low.

Provincial and municipal governments also use a great deal of the census data in the planning, developing, executing and monitoring of programs that range from grants and farm price stabilization to urban planning and transportation. It influences such decisions as the location of veterinarians and agricultural extension specialists, assistance to dairy farmers and beef cattle breeders, pesticide control programs, farm labor pool systems, capital grants for the purchase and leasing of farms, young farmer credit programs and land fertility studies.

Census forms will be delivered to every farm household in late May and will be collected shortly after June 3. Information about individual farms and farmers will, of course, be kept confidential. However, the aggregate statistics will be available later to those who need them through publications, microfiche, tapes, photocopies, special tabulations and thematic maps and graphs. Among the end products obtained through this information will be a farm economy that knows where it is going!

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May 18, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUDSY INSECTICIDE SOUNDS CRAZY BUT IT WORKS

It was not long ago that the use of soap to rid the home garden of such insects and aphids was considered odd, to say the least. However, according to recent research carried out by Dr. George Puritch of the Pacific Forest Research Centre near Victoria, B. C., the idea is not as strange as it may seem.

Although soaps have been used to control insects for many years, it is only recently that their action has been understood. Consequently, interest in these natural insecticidal compounds lagged behind the petrochemicals which have been in common use since the early 1930's.

The fatty acids from which soaps are made are the natural products of both animals and plants and are part of the daily human diet. Some of them are even constituents of the human tissues which help to protect the body against such invading pathogens as fungi and bacteria.

Dr. Puritch's research has shown that the readily biodegraded insecticidal soaps penetrate an insect's body, disrupt its membranes and accumulate in its nerves or interfere with the normal growth of immature insects. In each case, the insect is unable to complete a normal cycle and ultimately dies without having reproduced. Insecticidal soaps are highly selective in their action and have little effect on such beneficial insects as honey bees, ladybird beetles and parasitic wasps.

It is very possible that in the future fatty acid soaps will be developed to control a wide range of pests including fungi and nematodes. In fact, some are already being used to control algae and moss in container-grown seedlings in forest nurseries.

(Adapted from B. C. Pest Control News)

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May 18, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT MEETING

The International Summer Meeting of the Society for Range Management (SRM) will be held in Bismarck, North Dakota, on July 20 - 23, 1981.

Highlights of the meeting will include committee and business meetings; speakers on North Dakota's geology, soils and rangelands; and a bus tour. The tour will visit the MacDonald Polled Hereford Ranch near Bismarck; the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) soil conservation services at the Bismarck Plant Materials Center; and the Northern Great Plains Research Center of the USDA's Science and Education Administration — Agricultural Research, located near Mandan.

Special activities are also being planned for the ladies and the meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn Motel.

Membership in the SRM, which is a scientific and educational organization, is open to anyone engaged in or interested in any aspect of the study, management or use of rangelands.

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May 18, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SEMINAR

A seminar to look at the future of agricultural education in Alberta will be held at Olds College, Olds, from June 9 to 11.

Entitled "Agricultural Education Seminar, it is aimed at policy makers, educational administrators, educators and individuals who are involved in the agricultural industry. Those who participate will explore the future direction and outlook for agricultural education, investigate future training needs to support a changing and expanding agricultural industry and study the implications of computer technologies in formal education, extension education and communications.

The seminar is jointly sponsored by the departments of agriculture, advanced education and manpower and education and will feature key resource people from government, the post-secondary educational institutions and the agricultural industry. In addition to addressing the seminar, they will conduct demonstration workshops on such instructional and communications technologies as TELIDON, PLATO, word processing, micro-computers and electronic mail.

There will also be panel discussions, a banquet and a special presentation by the University of Wyoming's Harlan Hughes, who will describe AGNET, a computerized agricultural information network.

Further information and/or registration materials can be obtained from Janina Vanderpost at Alberta Advanced Education and Manpower (427-2534) or from Gabe Boulet, Alberta Agriculture (427-2403) or by writing to Agricultural Education Seminar, Extension Division, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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May 18, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA WOMEN'S WEEK AT OLDS

Take a break this summer and explore "Challenges", the theme of this year's Alberta Women's Week at Olds College. It will take place from July 20 - 23.

Doris Anderson, former president of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, and Dr. Maria Ericksen, a well-known Albertan, will be talking on social challenges; while Norma Trussler, a devotee of progress; Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch; and Vernis McCuaig, whose specialty is fashion, will discuss personal challenges.

Those who participate in the 1981 Alberta Women's Week at Olds can attend daily sessions on clothing, interior design, photography, investing and many other interesting topics.

The deadline for registering is June 25 and registration forms can be obtained from district home economists. The registration fee is still only $5. Room and board are available at the college as are child care services for three to nine year-olds.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KITCHEN METRICS

"Kitchen Metrics", published by Agriculture Canada, is an excellent booklet for anybody who is having trouble converting to metric cooking.

It explains the five metric units that are used in the kitchen or when buying food. These are volume, which is expressed in millilitres (mL) and litres (L); mass, which is expressed in grams (g) and kilograms (kg); length, which is expressed in millimetres (mm) and centimetres (cm); temperature, which is expressed in Celsius (C) and pressure, which is expressed in kilopascals (kPa).

Some packaged goods show the volume or mass only in metric units, while others carry both the conventional and metric numbers. The latter category is undergoing what is called a soft conversion. However, most products will eventually undergo hard conversion, and only metric numbers will appear.

The booklet points out that converting to metric measurements will not affect cooking methods. For example, most ingredients will continue to be measured by volume as they have always been. The only difference will be that the measurements will be in metric. And conventional recipes do not have to be discarded or converted to metric. You simply use your conventional measuring equipment for them.

The advantages of using metric units in the kitchen, according to this booklet, are:

- It is easier to increase or decrease the size of a recipe.
- There are no fractions to deal with.
- Fluid and weighed ounces will no longer be confused.

You can obtain a copy of "Kitchen Metrics" from your district home economist or from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 1B Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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May 18, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING AND RURAL SERVICES APPOINTED

Cy McAndrews, assistant deputy minister of development, has announced the appointment of David Jantzie to the position of director of the engineering and rural services division, effective June 2. Mr. Jantzie replaces J.L. Reid who is retiring after 26 years of service with Alberta Agriculture.

In his new position, Mr. Jantzie will be in charge of programs that relate to agricultural engineering, home and community design, service boards, agricultural societies, development committees, farm safety and agricultural manpower.

He obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta in 1951 and has continued to upgrade his ability in technology and management since that time through courses and experience. He joined Alberta Agriculture as a district agriculturist at Stettler in 1952 after having been employed as district manager with the Massey-Ferguson Company. He later moved to Coronation and then to Claresholm where he was district agriculturist until 1970 when he became head of the field crops branch. He was promoted to associate director in charge of rural services in 1979.

Mr. Jantzie's experience and service demonstrate an extensive professional background. He has been associated with a broad cross-section of the department's programs and administration as well as with the agricultural industry in general. His work as a district agriculturist involved livestock and crops and entailed considerable emphasis on all aspects of farming and rural life. His contributions to forage development, the province's seed cleaning plants, agricultural service boards, agricultural societies, agricultural development committees the Canadian Seed Growers' Association are all well known.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
JUN 18 1981

May 25, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

May 25, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ULTRASONIC BACKFAT MEASUREMENT IN SELECTING BEEF BREEDING STOCK

by Ross Gould
Alberta Agriculture

Modern technology now allows us to "see" under the hide of our beef animals and to measure the amount of fat cover they carry. With the aid of ultrasonic devices, a measurement of fat cover or finish can be made without making any incision in the skin of the animal.

What is Ultrasonic Measurement in Cattle?

The ultrasonic technique uses pulses of high frequency sound to give an indication of the location of fat, muscle and bone beneath the surface of undisturbed skin. The sound waves travel through different tissues at different rates and are reflected at the border between the tissues. The reflected waves are recorded as peaks on a tape or a display. A skilled operator can interpret these peaks to give a close estimate of the depth of fat at the point where the measurement is taken.

How is it Done?

To take the measurement, the operator places a sound transducer in close contact with the skin, using mineral oil or jelly to insure that there is no air space between the skin and the equipment. Because the shape of the muscling on the back is uneven, the operator must be properly trained in the anatomy of each type of animal being tested. Also, the measurement must be made in the same position on each animal with respect to the location of the muscling. A skilled operator will ensure the proper location for measurement so that the readings can be used for a comparison between animals.

- (cont'd) -

Ultrasonic Backfat Measurement In Selecting Beef Breeding Stock (cont'd)

Why Measure Fat Cover?

Backfat has been shown to be an indicator of the amount of fat in the animal as a whole. During the past decade, livestock producers have become more aware of the cost involved in overfinishing both breeding stock and slaughter animals. Fat is expensive to put on an animal. The energy cost of a pound of fat is from four to six times that of a pound of muscle. At the same time, the sale price of a slaughter animal which grades A_3 or A_4 will be discounted, in spite of the fact that the extra fat cost more to put on.

There are also other costs which may not be so obvious. Recent research has confirmed what many cattlemen have suspected for years. An over fat animal is often subfertile. Two year-old bulls fed high energy rations have been shown to get lower conception rates than bulls fed diets which met requirements for normal growth rather than fattening.

Daily Gain — Growth or Fat

Cattlemen now recognized the value of fast growing animals. Weight per day of age is used as an indicator of growth rate at many of the large bull sales in Alberta. To obtain a maximum growth rate it is necessary to feed animals a high energy diet which will often cause them to become too fat. Unless the buyer has an indication of back fat thickness as well as growth rate, he may have difficulty in distinguishing between a growthy animal and one which is simply over fat.

How Should Ultrasonic Backfat Information Be Used?

The information on backfat thickness, provided by ultrasonic measurement, can be useful in selecting breeding stock. The best choice for a herd sire is a bull with a satisfac-

Ultrasonic Backfat Measurement In Selecting Beef Breeding Stock (cont'd)

tory growth rate and only enough fat cover to indicate that his offspring are likely to meet the requirements for an A_1, A_2 graded carcass. Needless to say, a careful stockman will continue to look for other important characteristics in his choice of a herd sire. Backfat thickness is not meant to replace other information, but simply to add to it.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLOAT-FREE ALFALFA RESEARCH

Research carried out by Agriculture Canada's plant scientists at Saskatoon, Lethbridge and Kamloops has greatly enhanced the prospects of reducing the bloat potential in alfalfa.

They say the structure of the cell walls in alfalfa is the important factor in the occurrence of pasture bloat. These walls enclose the cells in which photosynthesies, respiration and other metabolic activities take place and which contain proteins, sugars and starch. These are all ideal nutrients for the rumen bacteria, which, while digesting them, produce a substantial volume of gas. The plant cell proteins are the foaming agents that are responsible for the gas being retained in the rumen in the form of many small bubbles which cannot be belched up.

In addition to providing a structural framework, the plant cell walls protect the cells against the invasion of pathogenic micro-organisms through complex chemical defences. This fact raises such questions as do plant cell walls also act as a barrier to rumen bacteria which prefer the rich nutrients inside the cell to the array of anti-microbial defences on the outside of its wall? Or would a variation in the degree of cell rupture caused by chewing influence the release of nutrients and foaming agents from the inside of the cell? In an attempt to answer these questions the scientists compared the cell wall characteristcs of such bloat-safe legumes as birdsfoot trefoil, cicer milkvetch and sainfoin with the cell wall characteristics of such bloat-causing legumes as alfalfa, red clover and white clover. They found that compared with the bloat-safe legumes, the leaves from alfalfa, red clover and white clover were more suceptible to mechanical crushing and more readily digested by the rumen bacteria. These and other research results strongly support the theory that leaf cell rupture is an important factor in pasture bloat. Cell rupture may occur either during chewing or microbial digestion of the cell wall and is a prerequisite to the release of the nutrients and foaming agents inside the cells.

The scientists point out that the onset of digestion occurs very quickly when fresh alfalfa is ingested by either cattle or sheep, and that the peak period occurs about two hours after feeding. Typical cases of bloat also occur in this period. On the other hand, the onset of digestion is slower with the bloat-safe legumes and the post-feeding peak is less pronounced. Hence, it appears that alfalfa causes pasture bloat because it is digested too quickly, especially during the first few hours following feeding.

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Bloat-Free Alfalfa Research (cont'd)

The cell rupture theory may also explain why bloat occurs on lush, rapidly growing pastures. Under these conditions, the cell walls are thin, still expanding and quite suceptible to mechanical crushing and microbial digestion. It is also felt that rain and a heavy dew may cause cells to become turgid and more susceptible to rupture from crushing.

The cell rupture theory should enable the scientists to slow down the initial rate of digestion of fresh alfalfa by selecting plants with cell walls that have more resistance to mechanical crushing and microbial digestion. It is possible to select such plants now, but the process is too slow to be practical. The scientists say that their immediate objective is to devise and test simpler faster methods of plant selection, to find more alfalfa plants with slow digestive characteristics and to assemble these into new strains that can be easily tested for their bloat potential.

An alternative approach to the problem would involve the protein foaming agents as opposed to the cell wall. The foaming of proteins is neutralized by tannins, another group of plant constituents, that are present in sainfoin, for example, and which probably contribute to its bloat-safe characteristics. So far not a single alfalfa plant that contains tannins has been found, but the search is continuing among mutagent-treated plants. If an alfalfa mutant which produces tannins can be found, this characteristic could be used to breed a bloat-safe alfalfa variety.

The scientists are now at the stage where the development of a bloat-safe alfalfa variety is a realistic goal, and there is increasing interest in removing the bloat potential from both alfalfa and red clover in other countries. Development of such a variety would double or triple the carrying capacity of Canada's extensive dryland pastures and rangelands.

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May 25, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW SPRAYER IDEAS

An article in the New Zealand Journal of Agriculture and reported in Alberta Agriculture's Industry News describes an idea for a boom sprayer which might be adapted for use in Alberta.

The boom is 60 feet long and consists of two lengths of hollow aluminum tubing that is six inches in diameter. It does not incorporate the sprayline; it simply provides support for it.

The boom is designed to be fitted to, and carried on, the front hydraulic arms of the tractor and can be raised or lowered according to the requirements of the job. Extra support for the boom is provided by two wire braces that are attached to the centre of each arm and anchored to high points on the tractor's hydraulic arms.

The base bracket that holds the boom has the same fittings as a bucket loader. It is basically a length of channel iron in which the boom is seated. At each end of the bracket, the boom is hinged so that the two main boom sections can be folded back along the sides of the tractor during transit.

Adjustable skids at each end of the boom prevent the ends from digging into the ground and also ensure that the nozzles are kept at the correct height. Obstacles in front of the boom can be avoided by raising the hydraulic arms.

When not in use, the boom may be left on the ground by simply withdrawing the pins from the hydraulic arms and uncoupling the hose.

Without some form of marking device it is almost impossible to avoid overlapping or, worse still, missing strips. Two suggestions may overcome this problem. One is the "blob" machine, with which we are familiar, where detergent foam is whisked up and deposited as blobs on the ground at the end of the spray boom. Another idea to aid in getting the boom aligned correctly after turning at the end of the field is to trail a long length of rope at each end of the boom.

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New Sprayer Ideas (cont'd)

As the operator completes a pass and makes a turn, the inside rope will go slack and most of it will lie in the position it was before the turn began. For the next pass there is a ready made line to start out on and then it is just a matter of picking out the blobs.

There are a couple of useful ideas here --- the use of aluminum tubing to support the spray line greatly reduces the weight, and the fact that the boom is ahead of the operator should make the job much easier.

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May 25, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIREBLIGHT A PEST UNDER THE AGRICULTURE PEST ACT

Did you know that fireblight, a disease that attacks crabapple and other fruit trees as well as mountain ash, cotoneaster and a number of other trees and shrubs, is a pest under the Alberta Agricultural Pest Act?

This means that anybody who owns or controls property in Alberta must eradicate fireblight in any infected trees or shrubs. In mild cases of the disease, eradication involves removing infected cankers, twigs or branches. In cases where the disease has become established in the base of a tree, it usually involves removing the tree.

Alberta Agriculture's plant pathologist, Dr. Jack Horricks, says removing the infected parts of a tree or shrub is the only effective way of controlling fireblight. There is no chemical that will cure it.

Dr. Horricks recommends inspecting susceptible tree varieties during the summer and removing and burning infected parts as soon as they are noticed. He says that you should always cut 25 - 45 cm below the diseased area because the disease-causing bacteria may extend beyond it. He also recommends removing all water sprouts and suckers (they are very susceptible to fireblight) and covering pruning wounds, particularly those that are larger than 2.5 cm with a recommended wound dressing or pruning paint.

An extremely important part of the pruning operation is disinfesting your pruning tools after each cut to avoid spreading the disease to healthy tissue. Dr. Horricks recommends a lysol solution (50 mL/L) or a household bleach solution (100 mL/L) for this job.

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May 25, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAZING SYSTEMS

A good grazing system will ensure a high level of performance from cattle at a minimum cost, and it will improve the productivity of the pasture. Although one system may be good for one farm and not for another, all the systems have the following factors in common. They produce a high quality pasture during the entire grazing season and they produce enough feed to meet the requirements of the livestock during this period.

Continuous Grazing

Continuous grazing is best suited to areas of low productivity like native range and cultivated pastures in the drier regions of the province. When continuous grazing is used, the stocking rate should be sufficiently low to ensure a carryover of forage, and provisions should be made for emergency pasture in case of an abnormally dry year.

Rotational Grazing

Rotational grazing involves dividing a field into a number of pastures and grazing each separately. It permits better use of the forage in areas of good production and it permits the efficient use of various soil types that require different forage mixtures. Each pasture should be grazed to a carryover of eight to 10 cm.

There are three important rules to follow for obtaining the maximum benefits from rotational grazing.

- Move the animals to the next pasture before they have an opportunity to graze the grass twice during the one period of occupation.
- Graze the pasture while the plants are in the leafy stage.
- Fertilize the pasture regularly. A forage stand that contains less than 20 per cent of legumes should be fertilized with an adequate level of nitrogen.

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Grazing Systems (cont'd)

Strip Grazing

Strip grazing is mainly used for dairy cattle and is an intensified method of rotational grazing. It involves grazing the pasture in strips by setting up a movable electric fence which allows the animals access to only enough grass for one day. This system maximizes the period of pasture regrowth. In the cases of both rotational and strip grazing, it is a good idea to separate the producing cows from the non-producing cows in a dairy herd and to use the latter as 'clean-up' animals.

Zero Grazing

Zero grazing involves harvesting and hauling the forage to the cattle. The advantage of zero grazing is that there is no loss from fouling and trampling, and that it eliminates selective grazing. The disadvantage is in the higher costs involved in hiring more labor, the provision of a well drained feedlot, the storing and hauling of manure, the provision of feed bunks, the need for harvesting machinery, and, in some cases, the need for gravelled lanes to the forage fields. It also involves harvesting the forage on a daily basis.

Zero grazing can result in higher production than conventional grazing, but this does not necessarily mean a higher net return.

Complementary Grazing

Complementary grazing involves delaying the use of native range until mid-June by using a seeded pasture in the spring. The seeded pasture can also be used in the fall. The grazing season can be extended to cover at least eight or nine months of the year in many parts of the province if the proper forage species are used at the right time.

Grasses should be used when they are most nutritious. Because crested wheat grass and Russian wild-rye start growing very early in the spring, they are particularly useful

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Grazing Systems (cont'd)

for spring pasture. The growth of brome grass and alfalfa is greatest in June and July and pubescent and intermediate wheat grass remain palatable into the late summer. Since Russian wild-rye has a long growing season and a high nutrient content in the fall, it makes a better fall pasture than other grasses.

Choosing a Pasture System

Available moisture, land values and type and size of livestock operation are among the factors that will influence the best grazing system for a specific situation. It may not, for example, pay to go beyond continuous grazing in the drier areas of the province because the added costs will be the same as for other areas but the increased production will be smaller. However, on irrigated land, a more intensive grazing system could produce a maximum amount of forage.

The cost of land, which is a fixed cost, can be spread over a greater volume of production when land values are high by increasing production. This will result in a lower unit cost.

The type of livestock enterprise has a great influence on gross returns. Since the unit value from fluid milk production is considerably higher than that from a beef cow-calf operation, it would pay a fluid milk producer to intensify his pasture management when it probably would not pay a beef cow-calf producer to do so.

In a large livestock operation, the additional cost of intensive pasture management is spread over a larger number of animals, and is, therefore, smaller in relation to the revenue received.

Further information on grazing systems and many other aspects of forage production is contained in a publication entitled "Alberta Forage Manual" (Agdex 120/20-4) which can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

May 25, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ESTABLISHING AND FERTILIZING LAWNS

Here are the answers to five of the most frequently asked questions concerning establishing and fertilizing lawns.

What type of grass seed is best for Alberta?

A mixture, as opposed to a single type of seed, usually gives the best results. Each type of grass in the mixture has a specific function and each blends in color and texture.

Kentucky bluegrass cultivars produce some of the best results in Alberta. Although they germinate slowly, they grow well once they become established, and they can produce a dense, hand-wearing turf. Kentucky bluegrass likes a cool growing season; it will stop growing and lose much of its color in very hot weather. To counteract the fact that bluegrass germinates slowly, it is usually mixed with a quick-growing grass, such as creeping red fescue, to provide cover while the bluegrass is becoming established.

When is the best time to sow a lawn?

June is the best time to sow a lawn in Alberta. This is the month when the ground is warm and there is usually enough rainfall to promote germination. However, a lawn can be sown any time between May 15 and September 1. Seeding is not recommended after September 1 because the seedlings will not be able to establish themselves before the cold weather sets in.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of sodding?

Sodding a lawn costs more than seeding it, but it provides quicker results. The sod can be laid any time that the ground is not frozen. It does not require as much attention as a seeded lawn while the sod is becoming established, and the ground requires less initial preparation. Lawn sod is a great benefit to parents with young children because it provides an "instant" lawn.

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Establishing And Fertilizing Lawns (cont'd)

Lawn sod should be about an inch thick. Sod that is thicker than this will take longer to become established because the roots of the grass will take longer to grow into the ground.

What type of fertilizer should be used?

The fertilizer should have a high nitrogen content because this nutrient is mainly responsible for the color and the development of leaves and stems. Phosphorous is also important because it promotes root growth in young plants and helps to develop leaf tissue in mature plants. Potassium is the third main fertilizer component. It builds up protein in the leaves and stems. Since soils in Alberta generally have enough potassium, it may not be necessary to add it. A fertilizer that is high in phosphorous should be used in the spring to promote root growth, and a fertilizer with a high nitrogen content should be used in the summer for good leaf color.

When should lawns be fertilized?

Fertilizers should be applied as early in the spring as possible or in the late fall. If the fertilizer is applied in the spring, a second one can be used during the first two weeks of July to provide extra nutrients for the remainder of the growing season. If desired, a third one can be applied in August. Lawns should not be fertilized between the second week in August and the dormant season, which begins in October. During this period they produce a soft, sappy growth that is susceptible to snow mold. To avoid burning the grass, inorganic fertilizers should be applied when the humidity is low and the grass is dry. However, the lawn should be watered thoroughly immediately afterwards to ensure that the fertilizer penetrates the soil.

Further information on seeding and maintaining lawns is contained in a publication entitled "Lawn Building and Maintenance" (Agdex No.273-20). It can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

May 25, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HAVE YOU TRIED TOFU YET?

Karen Graham
District Home Economist, Pincher Creek

Tofu has been available in Pincher Creek for some time, possibly because of the popularity of Oriental cooking.

Tofu is a Japanese word meaning pressed soybean curd or, if you prefer, curdled soybean milk. It is a pearly-white, quite firm to custard-soft, surprisingly versatile and an amazingly nutritious food. It is made from soybeans and has been used in the Orient for at least 2,500 years.

The protein in tofu is as "complete" as that of beef or chicken. It is low in calories (52 cal per 100 g) and fat, contains no cholesterol and is easy to digest. It contains B complex vitamins, and, best of all, tofu is one of the cheapest forms of complete protein available.

In the absence of either a meat or dairy dietary tradition, the people of the Orient developed a soybean tradition. A pound and a half of soybeans yield about three pounds of tofu. The Japanese have developed hundreds of ways of preparing it, and it is eaten at almost every meal as well as being used for snacks.

Soybeans are now widely grown in the United States where farm income from this crop is higher than from any other. On a world basis, American farmers planted more acres of soybeans than all the other countries combined. However, the tofu I purchased at the Pincher Creek Co-op is made in Japan.

Many new uses have been developed for tofu. It can, for example, be whipped for puddings and cheese-cake or it can be scrambled like eggs or it can be made into dips. Tofu can also be deep fried, sauteed or eaten fresh in a lettuce salad.

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May 25, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS

Alberta Agriculture's director of the extension division, John G. Calpas, has announced the appointments and transfers of several district agriculturists, all of which are the consequence of the normal turnover and rotation of staff and the division's training policy to fill vacancies.

Fred Potrebenko

Mr. Potrebenko has been appointed district agriculturist at Eaglesham. He succeeds Dale Seward who has been transferred to Fairview.

Mr. Potrebenko comes from Ryecroft and graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1979. While at university he spent his summers with Alberta Environment and as a summer student in the Calgary extension office. He took his district agriculturist training at Smoky Lake in 1979, and spent the last year as acting district agriculturist at Lac La Biche while senior district agriculturist Harvey Yoder was in New Zealand under an agricultural extension exchange program.

Douwe Smid

Mr. Smid has been appointed co-district agriculturist at Taber. He was born in Holland and moved to southern Alberta as a child. He holds a diploma in chemical technology from SAIT (1967); a B.Sc. (agriculture) with a major in plant science from the University of Alberta (1974); and a masters degree in weed science from Washington State University (1979).

Mr. Smid has had several years of experience with Alberta Agriculture, having worked with the horticultural branch at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks while other staff were on post-graduate training leave. His duties included applied research and extension in vegetable crops.

- (cont'd) -

District Agriculturist Appointments And Transfers (cont'd)

Roger Andreiuk

Mr. Andreiuk, co-district agriculturist at High Prairie, has been transferred to Spirit River where he holds the same position. A native of the Peace River region and a 1979 graduate of the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture), he worked at Fairview as a summer assistant in 1978. The following year he was appointed to a training position in Sedgewick and was subsequently transferred to High Prairie. He has also worked for the Alberta Forestry Service.

Glen Kirschman

Mr. Kirschman, district agriculturist at Valleyview, has been transferred to Camrose where he is co-district agriculturist. He comes from the Castor area and graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1979, having majored in agricultural engineering. He worked for the county of Paintearth during the summer of 1977 and as a summer assistant district agriculturist at Athabasca in 1978.

Ernest Smith

Mr. Smith has been transferred from the position of co-district agriculturist at Wetaskiwin to district agriculturist at Airdrie. He succeeds Don MacPherson who has been transferred to Calgary.

A native of Duffield, Mr. Smith graduated from the University of Alberta in 1978 with a B.Sc. (agriculture), having majored in agricultural economics. He also holds a diploma from Olds College. He was farm management technician in Calgary from 1971-74 and took his district agriculturist training at Lacombe in 1978. He became co-district agriculturist at Wetaskiwin in the fall of 1979.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURISTS-IN-TRAINING ANNOUNCED

John G. Calpas, director of Alberta Agriculture's extension division, has announced six district agriculturists-in-training. The announcement follows the division's annual university recruitment program which is carried out at selected universities in Western Canada. Three more district agriculturists-in-training will be announced in September.

Sharon Bucsis

Ms. Bucsis will take her training at the Westlock office where she will train with Alan Hall.

A native of Yorkton, Saskatchewan, she attended the University of Saskatchewan and graduated this spring with a B.Sc. (agriculture), having majored in animal science. She worked for two summers with the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture and for one summer with Agriculture Canada's research station in Saskatoon.

Peter Van Everdink

Mr. Van Everdink will take his training at Sangudo where he will work with Lloyd Gibelhaus.

Mr. Van Everdink is from the Wembley area and obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) this spring from the University of Alberta, having majored in agronomy. His summer jobs have included being an irrigation technician in the Grande Prairie area and acting as a special project leader with the Summer Job Corps Program at the federal research station in Beaverlodge.

Brad Hansen

Mr. Hansen is taking his training with Dave Zuckerman in the High River office.

Mr. Hansen is a native of Oungre, Saskatchewan, and graduated from the University of Saskatchewan this spring with a B.Sc. (agriculture), having majored in agronomy. While at university, he worked during the summer for Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration on a water development and surveying project.

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District Agriculturists-In-Training Announced (cont'd)

Patrick Hawkins

Mr. Hawkins has been assigned to the Falher office and will train under Dave Spencer.

Mr. Hawkins comes from Bentley and graduated from the University of Alberta this spring with a B.Sc. (agriculture), having majored in soil science. He spent last summer working as a summer district agriculturist at Ponoka.

Brian Palichuk

Mr. Palichuk will take his training with Fred DeMille at Peace River.

Mr. Palichuk comes from Smoky Lake and graduated from the University of Alberta this spring with a B.Sc. (agriculture). He spent four summers working for the Alberta Gas Trunk Line and last summer as a summer district agriculturist at Taber.

Fred Young

Mr. Young will do his training with Gary Berger in Athabasca.

Mr. Young is from Edmonton and graduated from the University of Alberta this spring with a B.Sc. (agriculture). He spent last summer as a summer district agriculturist at Evansburg and the previous one as a research assistant with Rohm and Hass Canada Ltd.

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AGRI-NEWS

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June 1, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

June 1, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VEGETABLE AND POTATO STORAGE PROGRAM

H.B. (Ben) McEwen, chairman of the board of directors of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), has announced a new Vegetable and Potato Storage Program. Formerly known as the Vegetable Producers' Loan Program, the new program has been substantially redesigned.

It is intended to improve the productivity and viability of the vegetable and potato industries in Alberta and will provide an annual incentive for financing obtained under the corporation's Alberta Farm Development Loan Guarantee (AFDL), providing the financing is used to:

- Assist in the construction of new potato and vegetable storage facilities, including properly designed equipment relating to ventilation, humidification and refrigeration.
- Modify or improve existing potato and vegetable storage by the addition of ventilation, humidification or refrigeration equipment, including the construction of plenums, air ducts and the purchase of fans, humidifiers, cooling equipment, etc. The insulation of existing storage facilities is also eligible.
- Improve product handling capabilities in and out of storage facilities, including the installation of cement floors, cooling rooms and the purchase of equipment such as that used for bin loading and unloading, grading, vegetable and potato washing, waxing, grading and handling, but excluding motorized mobile equipment.

Operated under AFDL , the Vegetable and Potato Storage Program will provide loans up to a maximum of $75,000 to eligible vegetable and potato growers. The amount of the incentive will be $70 per $1,000 of the original loan that is eligible, and it is payable annually over a five-year period.

Further information on the Vegetable and Potato Storage Program, eligibility criteria and information on how to apply for a loan under this program can be obtained from your district ADC office.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR CONTROL

Forest tent caterpillar infestations are heavy and widespread throughout Alberta again this year.

Alberta Agriculture's pest control specialist, Michael Dolinski, says the following insecticides can be used to control the caterpillars: Sevin; Cygon; Dutox; Malathion; Methoxychlor; and Dylox.

Aerial applications may be the only feasible method of controlling them on farmsteads and in recreational areas. However, Mr. Dolinski stresses that insecticides must not be applied within 30 m of any body of water unless a permit has been obtained from the pesticide section of Alberta Environment. He also advises applicators to be sure to notify beekeepers in an area that is going to be sprayed so that they can move their bees or shut them in for about 48 hours.

Regardless of the pesticide used, residents in an area that is being sprayed should remain indoors during the operation and for about an hour afterwards or they should leave the area for a short period. Anyone who is ill or infirm would be wise to leave for 48 hours. Mr. Dolinski strongly recommends groups that organize a spraying operation for acreages should obtain written permission from all the landowners involved.

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Forest Tent Caterpillar Control (cont'd)

Common sense precautions like removing children and pets from the area while it is being sprayed, wearing rubber gloves, storing the insecticide in a safe place, washing after having used it and following all other label precautions will ensure the safe use of pesticides. A commercial applicator who anticipates exposure for several days should wear protective clothing and use a chemical respirator.

All the insecticides mentioned above are domestic-class products and can be obtained by homeowners from their local hardware store or from a nursery, co-op, etc.

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June 1, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

$75,000 TONS OF HAY WASTED IN ALBERTA ANNUALLY

Upwards of 75,000 tons of hay growing on Alberta highway rights-of-way go to waste every year because farmers and others either do not know that it is available or because they believe there is no market for it.

Although all the highway rights-of-way in this province are seeded to forage mixtures that are similar to those used for regular hay crops, only about 10 per cent of the hay is harvested. Alberta Transportation mows it to eliminate the potential fire hazard it causes and to prevent the accumulation of snow during the winter.

E. Belsheim, director of operations with Alberta Transportation, estimates that there are 125,000 acres of highway right-of-way in Alberta, 60 per cent of which could be harvested for hay with standard equipment. He says the rights-of-way of several highways are hayed every year, while few if any of the farmers in other areas are interested in acquiring this hay. He could not account for this difference in attitude unless it is due to the presence or absence of a large livestock population.

According to Alberta Agriculture officials, hay was selling during the past year at between $75 and $100 per ton in a relatively brisk market. This means that the 75,000 tons of unharvested hay had a market value in excess of $5 million.

Myron Bjorge, supervisor of forage crops with Alberta Agriculture, volunteered the opinion that the main reasons that hay along Alberta's highways is not used could be because the terrain in some of the rights-of-way is rough and because some rights-of-way contain garbage. However, bottles and other garbage should not present any serious problems because bottle collectors keep the ditches relatively free of bottles and maintenance crews regularly collect all other garbage.

- (cont'd) -

$75,000 Tons Of Hay Wasted In Alberta Annually (cont'd)

The above conditions plus other impediments like sign posts would add to the cost of harvesting the hay in terms of time, but, since it is free, this cost would be more than offset by the market value of the hay.

The hay that grows on highway rights-of-way in Alberta can be harvested by anybody, providing he obtains a permit from one of the 15 district transportation engineers who are located in the major centres throughout the province. The farmer whose land is adjacent to the right-of-way is given the first chance to harvest the hay if he applies for a permit before June 15. If he does not do this, a permit will be issued to any other applicant on a first come, first served basis.

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June 1, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAZING MANAGEMENT AND BEEF PRODUCTION

The standard heavy continuous grazing system practised by many livestock producers is not profitable.

This is the conclusion reached in two experiments carried out by the University of Alberta's Department of Plant Science. The experiments showed that native and cultivated forages in Alberta cannot tolerate that kind of management. They also show cattlemen could produce more forage per acre, have more grass regrowth late in the season and produce more beef per acre if they were prepared to put in extra fencing so that they could move their animals from field to field.

Repeated light to moderate grazing apparently shows real promise for producing the most forage per acre, the most beef per acre and the highest liveweight gain per animal.

At the present time Department of Plant Science staff are setting up a new kind of fencing system in conjunction with a Farming for the Future study on brush control. They want to develop an approach that will make it easier for cattlemen to move their animals so that cattlemen will take a more serious look at a practical , rotational grazing system. Such systems are one of the keys to higher meat production in the future from grasslands.

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June 1, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HERBICIDE MIXING PROBLEMS

Did you know that two herbicides may mix physically but not biologically?

According to a weed control scientist at Agriculture Canada's research station in Regina, Saskatchewan, some herbicides appear to be physically and chemically compatible when they are first mixed, but when they are applied together in the field, their effectiveness is drastically reduced.

This incompatibility may either increase or decrease the way the plant takes up the herbicide, it may change the way the herbicide moves within the plant or it may change the herbicide's selectivity for crop and weeds. These changes usually mean that weed control is reduced or eliminated on one or more of the weed species involved. Also, the tolerance of the crop to the herbicide may be reduced and result in damage to the crop.

The Agriculture Canada scientist also says biological incompatibility can occur when two herbicides are applied a few days apart, and that this incompatibility decreases as the length of time between the applications increases.

The best way to avoid incompatibility problems is to use only registered herbicide mixes and to prepare them in accordance with current provincial weed control recommendations.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR CONTROL AND BEE SAFETY

Aerial applicators are, or will be, spraying for forest tent caterpillars in many areas of Alberta this spring and their operations could pose a threat to honeybees unless beekeepers take adequate precautions.

Michael Dolinski, entomologist and pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture, says good communication between beekeepers, landowners and aerial applicators is the key to avoiding bee losses. He advises beekeepers to inform landowners in their areas of the location of their bees and to ask the landowners to let them know when and where they plan to spray. Mr. Dolinski also suggests that beekeepers provide all local aerial applicators with information on the location of their apiary sites.

Although Dipel, a bacteria, is not toxic to bees, it is unlikely to be used this season because the caterpillars are already too mature for it to have any effect. It is recommended only for caterpillars that are half an inch or less in length.

Mr. Dolinski says malathion will be used throughout most of central Alberta and that dimethoate will be used in some areas of the Peace River Region. The greatest danger is that these chemicals will accidently be applied to an apiary site or to crops where bees are foraging. Since most of the spraying normally takes place during the early morning or during the late evening, the hazard to foraging bees should be minimal.

If you, as a beekeeper, are worried about your bees, you should move them to a safer area or you should close them in their hives and cover the hives with wet sacking for a day or two.

According to Mr. Dolinski, the general public is becoming increasingly aware of bee safety, and losses should be minimal this season as long as good communication is established between beekeepers, landowners and aerial applicators.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HORTICULTURAL MALPRACTICES

by Betty Vladicka, Extension Horticulturist, Alberta Agriculture

Springtime brings out the gardener in some of us, but springtime also brings out the pests and problems that come with gardening. Working in extension one learns about every so called "cure" for these problems. Unfortunately, many of these cures are not based on sound horticultural practices, and it is up to those of us in extension to assist these misguided gardeners.

One of the more common malpractices is the topping of trees, especially conifers. One doesn't have to travel far to find some poor white spruce that has been barbered in an attempt to make the bottom "fill out" and to produce new branches. Some people still believe that a tree grows up from the ground.

Producing a denser tree isn't the only wrong reason for pruning shears coming out. People tend to forget that the little spruce will reach a height of 15 m and isn't suitable for a foundation planting. So rather than moving it, its owner gives it an annual shearing in an attempt to check its growth. This failure to anticipate the mature size of plants isn't limited only to their height. The planting of 5 junipers in a bed no larger than 3^2 m is also not uncommon.

Underestimating the growth of weeds is another error. Many a new homeowner has regretted not taking a little more time to eliminate the quackgrass from the "weed-free" topsoil brought in. After all, doesn't laying sod on top choke everything that was growing?

But it isn't only the cultural aspects of horticulture that the amateur has his misconceptions about. The misuse of chemicals is one that has costly repercussions. For instance, take the case of the wife who thought she would surprise her husband and fertilize the lawn. She knew that urea was a fertilizer so the ureabor was probably what he was going to use.

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Horticultural Malpractices (cont'd)

Goodbye to the lawn and the mature trees and shrubs. And many a neighborhood feud has developed because of the careless use of herbicides and soil sterilants.

The misuse of insecticides is just as common. Spring brings out the sprayers filled with malathion solutions. The fact that the temperature is 15° C and the leaves are just budding doesn't concern the gardener who hadn't read the directions past "mix 2 tbsp per gallon". Malathion is often used in this manner to prevent the bugs from damaging his trees later in the spring.

These are just a few of the horticultural malpractices that occur every year. The responsibility can be shared by many, but the most important thing is to prevent the problems that could develop tomorrow!

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June 1, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEEDERS' DAY PROGRAM

Are you planning to attend this year's Feeders' Day, scheduled to take place at Olds College on June 12? If so, the following is a list of the presentations you can expect to hear.

. Effect of Temperature on Digestion (R.J. Christopherson) will examine the effect of environmental temperature on the digestive function of ruminants with particular emphasis on the effect of cold weather and the implications for altering feed requirements.

. Feeding Starter Pigs (H.E. Nielsen) will deal with the nutrient requirements of pigs that are weaned at several different ages. It will also cover the effects of starter diet composition and the level and system of feeding on economical pig performance.

. All About Gilts (F.X. Aherne) will cover many of the factors that affect the onset of puberty in gilts and outline how their reproductive performance can be improved.

. Feedlot Nutrition (G.W. Mathison) will examine results obtained from supplementing feedlot cattle diets with potassium, manganese, magnesium, choline and thiamin. The relationship between the net energy value of barley and environmental conditions will also be discussed.

. Visual Appraisal of Beef Cattle (M.A. Price) will evaluate the results of research into the ability of cattlemen to judge their animals and will try to indicate what can and cannot be achieved by judges armed only with experience and the naked eye.

. Animal Production and Stress (J.R. Thompson) will present an overview of the effects of various stress factors on animals from the point of view of the growth of young animals through to the production of meat.

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Feeders' Day Program (cont'd)

• Feeding the High Producing Dairy Cow (J.J. Kennelly) will cover feeding programs that allow a high producing cow to milk to her genetic potential.

• Current Research at the University of Alberta (F.X. Aherne) will evaluate the effect of the feeding system and feed intake on the performance and carcass quality of growing-finishing hogs; examine the results of studies on the lysine requirements of weaner pigs and lysine supplementation; summarize the current situation regarding the use of canola meal in swine diets; and evaluate the results of several experiments involving a comparison of different feeding systems for suckling and newly weaned pigs.

All the completed experiments will be published in "The 60th Annual Feeders' Day Report", which will be available to anybody who attends Feeders' Day.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1981 PORK CONGRESS

If you will be looking for some new breeding stock for your swine herd in mid-June or if you are involved with, or just interested in, the hog industry, make a point of attending this year's Alberta Pork Congress, scheduled to take place at the Westerner Exposition Grounds in Red Deer on June 16, 17 and 18.

If it is breeding stock you are interested in, you will find a wide range of boars and gilts to choose from in the Yorkshire, Landrace, Lacombe, Hampshire and Duroc breeds. Official probe and weight data will be posted for every pig in the breeding stock classes.

In addition to the purebred swine show and sale, the congress will feature a live/carcass barrow show and sale, an industrial exhibition consisting of more than 100 booths, producer and consumer seminars, a banquet and dance and a pork barbeque.

The three-day producer seminar will include such topics as feed additives, the latest technology in pig facilities and environmental control methods and a number of presentations on herd health. The second day of the seminar will be devoted to the Crow Rate and the future of the meat packing industry in Alberta.

The ladies program will feature presentations on the preparation of pork and the use of a microwave oven, a course on pork cuts and the latest information on the nutritional aspects of pork. Millie Jordan and Carlene Wilkin, president and vice-president respectively of the American National Porkette Association, will describe how their more than 18,000-member organization developed and how a similar organization would benefit the pork industry in Alberta.

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1981 Pork Congress (cont'd)

The Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board will honor the top 10 producers during the Alberta Pork Congress Awards [illegible] is new this year. The guest speaker, Father Larre of the BOSCO Home in Regina, will talk about family life communication.

The banquet, which will be held at the Capri Centre on June 17, will be preceeded by the sale of the 10 top barrow carcasses and will be followed by the presentation of the Pork Industry Leadership Award.

The congress will conclude on the evening of June 18 with a pork barbeque, which drew 800 people last year.

Further information can be obtained from Carol Voros, Manager, Alberta Pork Congress, Box 5002, Red Deer, Alberta, T4N 5Y5. (Telephone 343 - 5307).

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June 1, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOLAR DRYER FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

If you would like to dry some of your own garden produce this summer, you may be interested in a solar fruit and vegetable dryer that you can make yourself.

Researchers with the United States Department of Agriculture have put together such a dryer with a string, some aluminum foil, glue and wood. And they used simple tools such as a hammer, a drill, a pair of pliers, clamps and a handsaw.

This solar dryer, which costs only $14 US in the States, uses aluminum foil around a curved structure of wood. It gives the drying effect of a curved mirror focusing surface that concentrates the rediation from the sun just enough to dry the fruits and vegetables without overheating or burning them.

Ordinary household aluminum foil is drawn over strings that are held taut by a framework of laminated wood curves or parabolas. The structure, which looks like a chair and weighs less than 15 pounds, is then covered with clear plastic that has openings at the top and bottom to allow a controlled air flow. The plastic cover keeps out dust, birds, insects and rain and prevents the re-entry of moisture. Among the products that have been successfully dried in this dryer in the United States are sliced peaches, mangoes, green peppers, onions, mushrooms, plantains, apricots, apples and grapes. They dry best when cut into thin sections or slices.

The Solar Food Dryer, Agriculture Radio, Washington, D.C. 20250, U.S.A., is the name and address of the agency that has invented this backyard food dryer.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST PROMOTION AND TRANSFER

Alberta Agriculture's director of extension, John G. Calpas, has announced the promotion of Carole Rex to the position of senior district agriculturist at Taber and the transfer of Darryl Wells to the position of co-district agriculturist at Fort Vermilion.

Ms. Rex will be responsible for agricultural extension programs and staff supervision in the Brooks-Taber-Vauxhall sub-regional area and she will also be a member of the regional planning committee.

She has spent the last five years as district agriculturist at Oyen where she played a major role in the Chinook Applied Research Association. She joined Alberta Agriculture in 1974, having been seconded by the federal government under the Small Farms Development Program. At that time she was farm management consultant in the Vermilion region.

Ms. Rex comes from a mixed farm in Manitoba where her father and brothers farm in partnership and where she maintains a managerial interest in the major and specialty crop enterprises. She graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1972 with a major in entomology and was subsequently employed at the federal research station at Morden, Manitoba, as a plant taxonomist, and by the University of Manitoba as a horticultural technician.

Darryl Wells

Mr. Wells, in conjunction with Rick Clippenstein, will be providing Alberta's largest and most northerly district, ID 23, with extension programs and services. Prior to his transfer he was district agriculturist at Sangudo.

A native of Eastern Canada, Mr. Wells graduated from McGill University's Macdonald College in 1976 with a B.Sc. (agriculture). During his summers while at university, he

- (cont'd) -

District Agriculturist Promotion And Transfer (cont'd)

worked in drainage design and land improvement, and in agri-business where he was responsible for chemical sales and safety and preventative maintenance for anhydrous ammonia equipment. Following graduation he was employed by Canadian Industries Limited Agricultural Chemicals in London, Ontario, where he worked in the product and market research section. Prior to coming to Alberta, he worked for Farm Safety Association Incorporated of Guelph, Ontario. Here he developed and promoted occupational health and safety educational programs for the agricultural industry and provided consultative services for various government agencies.

Mr. Wells joined Alberta Agriculture as a district agriculturist-in-training at Sangudo in 1980.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUMMER ASSISTANT DISTRICT AGRICULTURISTS APPOINTED

John G. Calpas, director of Alberta Agriculture's extension division, has announced the appointments of 11 summer assistant district agriculturists. They are all enrolled in the B.Sc. (agriculture) program at the University of Alberta.

Debbie Dalton

Ms. Dalton has been appointed to the Spirit River office where she will work with David Wong. She comes from Calgary and is majoring in animal science. She joined the University of Alberta's Student Work Experience Program to become familiar with the agricultural industry.

Grant Deurloo

Mr. Deurloo is working at the Fairview district office under David Samm and Dale Seward.

Mr. Deurloo comes from Granum where he has worked on the family farm and assisted a neighbor with his beekeeping operation.

Patricia Dirk

Ms. Dirk has been assigned to the Warner district officer where she will work with district agriculturist Dave Pilling.

Ms. Dirk grew up on a wheat farm near Empress and has held a number of part-time jobs including that of groundskeeper for the residences of the University of Alberta.

Ted Ford

Mr. Ford has been appointed to the Stony Plain office where he will assist Bill Bayda.

Mr. Ford was born in Naco and grew up in the Westlock area. He is majoring in agricultural economics and worked for Alberta Agriculture as a farm management technician in the early to mid-1970's and as a summer district agriculturist last year.

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Summer Assistant District Agriculturists Appointed (cont'd)

Ken MacQuarrie

Mr. MacQuarrie has been assigned to the Evansburg office where he will work with Don Glover

Mr. MacQuarrie comes from Camrose and has spent six months working on a mixed farm near that community. He is majoring in agricultural economics.

Scott Meers

Mr. Meers is working at the Lamont office with Don Christensen.

Mr. Meers comes from Acadia Valley where he has worked on the family farm. He has also worked for the Oyen Dry Country Gas Co-op and is majoring in plant science at the University of Alberta.

Brigitte Rozema

Ms. Rozema has been appointed to the Vermilion district office where she will work with George Rock. She comes from Edmonton and has held such summer jobs as farm worker at the Provincial Tree Nursery and project researcher with Agriculture Canada. She is majoring in agronomy at the University of Alberta.

Derek Shantz

Mr. Shantz is at the Coronation office where he will assist David Plett.

Mr. Shantz grew up on a farm near High Prairie and has worked for two summers as a weed inspector for that M.D. He is majoring in agronomy.

Josie Van Lent

Ms. Van Lent has been appointed to the Vulcan office where she will work under Dennis Stretch. She was raised on a farm near Red Deer and has worked on the family farm as well as with mentally handicapped children at the Michener Centre in Red Deer.

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Summer Assistant District Agriculturists Appointed (cont'd)

Catherine Wallace

Ms. Wallace has been assigned to the Westlock office and will work with Alan Hall and Lorne Turner. She has worked on the family farm near Barrhead and at the Thunder Lake Provincial Park.

Ken Ziegler

Mr. Ziegler has been appointed to the Airdrie district office where he will work under Ernie Smith.

Mr. Ziegler has worked on the family farm near Stettler and with Elanco as a sales representative.

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AGRI-NEWS

June 8, 1981

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
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June 8, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SITE OF FOOD PROCESSING DEVELOPMENT CENTER ANNOUNCED

Dallas W. Schmidt, Alberta's minister of agriculture, has announced the selection of a site for the proposed Food Processing Development Center which was presented in the fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Design work has been commenced and construction of the facility is scheduled to begin in the spring of 1982 and to be completed in the spring of 1984. Vinto Engineering Ltd. has been appointed the main contractor of the $7.7 million project which is being funded by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Capital Projects Division.

The Food Processing Development Center, to be located on a 10-acre site in the Leduc Industrial Park, will supplement the services and programs currently available to the food processing sector. It will not only encourage increased value adding activity in the area of food processing, but it will also help in the development of new products and techniques to further the use of the province's agricultural commodities.

The center will concentrate on technological opportunities in areas of product development, ingredient improvement and evaluation, packaging alternatives and process systems. It will be sufficiently large to accommodate the broad needs of meat, dairy, oilseed, vegetable and cereal-based food items, and it will be oriented towards the adaptation of worldwide innovations to local raw product and market realities. It will also encourage the extension of the frontiers of knowledge by Alberta processors.

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June 8, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INVESTMENT IN NUTRITIVE PROCESSING GROWS IN RURAL ALBERTA

Five Alberta nutritive processing firms and one individual are to invest more than $1,462,753 in rural Alberta communities under the federal-provincial Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement. Between them, they will receive a total of $308,887 under the agreement.

Big Sky Soil Services Ltd. of Didsbury, a manufacturer of blended liquid fertilizers, will receive $27,826 to build a new plant which has an estimated capital requirement of $173,915. It is expected to create nine new jobs.

Fletcher's Ltd. of Red Deer will receive $156,664 to modernize and expand its hog slaughtering plant, which is estimated to cost $783,319. The improvements are expected to lead to increased export market opportunities and to create 36 new jobs.

United Feeds Division of the United Grain Growers will receive $4,000 to improve and modernize its pet food plant in Innisfail. The modernization, which will involve the installation of a new electronic scale and bag placer on the packaging line, is estimated to cost $20,000.

H & M Meats of Grande Prairie, owned by Pentex Holdings Ltd., will receive $2,860 to expand its abattoir. The estimated cost of the additional floor space is $14,300.

Fort Saskatchewan Bakery Ltd., will receive $1,072 to modernize its facilities. The estimated capital cost is $5,360.

Walter Albers will receive $116,465 to construct a class "A" abattoir near Breton to process local cattle and hogs as well as to produce smoked and cured products. The estimated capital cost of the abattoir is $465,859 and it is expected to create nine new jobs.

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June 8, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IBR VACCINES

If your replacement heifers have not yet been vaccinated for infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR), you would be wise to vaccinate them now. Ideally, for maximum protection, they should be vaccinated at least two to three weeks before they are bred.

According to Dr. Neil Palechek of Alberta Agriculture's preventive medicine branch, IBR vaccines are widely used and recommended because IBR is extremely common in Alberta cattle, its occurrence is unpredictable and economic losses from it are high. He points out that the mobility of the cattle population, which has resulted from current trading and rapid transportation patterns, has greatly increased the chances of cattle herds contracting this disease.

Dr. Palechek goes on to explain that there are two types of modified live virus vaccines on the market. One is the intramuscular (IM) vaccine. It is usually cheaper than the other one and is easier to administer, but it causes abortions, especially in cows that are not immune to the disease. The other vaccine, called intranasal (IN) is safe to use on pregnant cows because it does not cause abortions. Although both types of vaccines stimulate the production of circulating antibodies, the IN vaccine provides earlier protection against the respiratory form of the disease.

Dr. Palechek says the careful technique required for the successful vaccination with IN is the main drawback to its use. The animal has to be properly restrained before the canula (plastic tube) can be inserted into its nostrils. Ideally, one millilitre of the vaccine should be released in each nostril during the inspiratory phase of respiration. If the technique is not properly carried out, the animal may not develop an immunity to IBR. Most animals are given two or three of these vaccinations to ensure immunity.

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IBR Vaccines (cont'd)

"If a cow herd or replacement heifers have been vaccinated every year for IBR, an intramuscular vaccination of their calves is all that is required," Dr. Palechek says. On the other hand, if they have not been vaccinated in the past, replacement heifers and the calf crop should be vaccinated with the IN vaccine.

Feeder cattle should be vaccinated three weeks before they enter a feedlot, but, in actual practice, most of them are vaccinated as they come off the trucks. However, highly stressed, unvaccinated animals like calves being shipped to Eastern feedlots should perhaps not be vaccinated until they have had time to adjust to their new environment. The reason is that a very highly stressed animal would probably not develop immunity in response to the vaccine.

Should we vaccinate in the face of an outbreak of IBR is a question frequently asked by cattlemen. The answer that Dr. Palechek gives to this question is that some benefit may be achieved from vaccinating, providing it is done at least 72 hours before the animal becomes infected. "If one or two animals in the herd are affected" he says "then it may be beneficial to vaccinate because the majority of the cattle are probably not infected yet. If, however, 50 per cent of the animals are showing clinical signs of the disease, you can be sure that most of the others are incubating the virus and vaccinating will not be effective".

Dr. Palechek says losses from the abortions that normally follow an outbreak of IBR in susceptible animals can account for more than 85 per cent of the calf crop. This is a devastating loss for any cattleman!

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PFRA EXPANDS WATER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Changes to the Prairie Farm Regional Administration (PFRA) Water Development Program will increase the financial assistance that farmers and ranchers receive under the program and will permit the funding of joint rural projects.

Drilled Wells

Financial assistance will be provided for one third of the eligible cost or $5 per cased-foot, whichever is less, up to a maximum of $1,500. However, the well must be constructed in accordance with PFRA standards and the work must be properly documented to qualify for this assistance.

Bored Wells

Financial assistance will be provided for one third of the eligible cost or $11 per foot of cribbed-depth, whichever is less, plus one-third of the cost of a large diameter screen.

Dams and Dugouts

Financial assistance will be provided for one-third of the eligible cost or 16 per cubic yard, whichever is less, up to a maximum of $1,500.

Joint Projects

Drilled Wells

The total funding when two or more farmers develop a well is one-third of the eligible cost or $5 per cased-foot up to a maximum of $1,500 per applicant. The applicants must demonstrate joint ownership and/or control of the project.

Stock Watering Dams and Dugouts

The total financial assistance for an irrigation project involving two or more farmers is based on the unit price or one-third of the eligible cost, whichever is less, up to a maximum of $2,000 per applicant. Again, proof of joint ownership and/or control must be provided.

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PFRA Expands Water Development Program (cont'd)

Group Projects

Both financial and technical assistance will be provided for rural groups of less than 300 people to develop water storage reservoirs, wells, pipelines and other water development projects. The financial assistance applies to a maximum of 50 per cent of the cost of construction and to a maximum of $15,000 for the distribution system. Hamlets and villages and incorporated groups of individuals are eligible to apply.

Further information on the program and application forms can be obtained from any extension office or from your nearest PFRA office.

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June 8, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRUCELLOSIS INCIDENCE DOWN IN CANADA

Agriculture Canada reports that the number of cattle herds under quarantine for brucellosis is declining.

There were 88 herds, representing 0.03 per cent of the total Canadian cattle population, under quarantine on March 1, 1981 compared with 167 herds at the same time a year earlier. In 1977 there were about 1,500 herds under quarantine.

Canada has been divided into regions based on the incidence of brucellosis under the eradication program. The Atlantic provinces and British Columbia are classified as brucellosis-free regions while Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are classified as low incidence regions.

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June 8, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEEDING GOATS FOR OPTIMUM REPRODUCTIVE EFFICIENCY

What nutrients are important for optimum reproduction in goats?

According to Dr. Robert Westra, ruminant nutritionist with Alberta Agriculture, they are carbohydrates, fats, crude protein, minerals and vitamins. Because both carbohydrates and fat are important sources of energy, they can be combined for discussion purposes and referred to as digestible energy. Digestible energy is the most expensive part of a ration and is often the most limiting from the point of view of milk production. Problems encountered in rebreeding a doe two months after she has kidded are frequently caused by an inadequate level of energy. Dr. Westra says heavy milkers usually suffer from an energy deficiency after kidding, and that it normally takes six to eight weeks for them to recover again. If a doe cannot meet her energy requirement during this period, she will not be able to repair her uterus in time for rebreeding and her milk production will drop. The opportunity for disease to occur is also higher at this time.

How much should you feed a 150-pound doe that produced about 10 pounds of milk per day soon after kidding and 16 pounds eight weeks later (4 per cent butterfat)? Dr. Westra's calculations, based on a dairy goat production independent study by Holly Furber and published by the University of Guelph, Ontario, show that such a goat would require 3.8 pounds of alfalfa hay while producing 10 pounds of milk a day plus 4.3 pounds of a 16 per cent dairy ration. When producing at the 16-pound a day level, she would require 4 pounds of alfalfa and 6.9 pounds of a 16 per cent dairy ration.

Protein is the second most important dietary component. For best results it must be properly balanced with the energy component in the ration. If it is not balanced the digestible energy will not be used efficiently.

The third important component is made up of minerals. A ratio of 2 calcium to one phosphorous is optimum. Never exceed a ratio of 7 to one and never use a ration of less

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Feeding Goats For Optimum Reproductive Efficiency (cont'd)

than 1.5 to one. According to Dr. Westra, it is not a good idea to feed alfalfa to dry does because it contains an excess of calcium. He says milk fever can often be traced to alfalfa having been fed to a doe during her dry period. Feed a good quality grass hay instead of alfalfa.

Magnesium is rarely a problem in goat rations, but iodine can be a problem if extra iodine is provided in the form of organic iodine in the salt. Goats that are receiving more than 38 mg of iodine (equivalent to 48 mg of organic iodide) per day may lose weight, they may abort the fetus and they may not breed the following year. The kids may be born dead or they may perform poorly. The iodine content of loose cobalt-iodized salt is adequate for goat reproduction unless the goats are being fed such things as high glucosinolate rapeseed or a large amount of stinkweed, cabbage, kale or cauliflower.

Selenium, copper and zinc are other minerals that are necessary for optimum reproduction in goats, and which may be deficient in feeds. Anyone who suspects that these minerals are deficient should contact a nutritionist.

Vitamins make up the last important component of the ration. Does that are not receiving enough vitamin A or carotene can have irregular heat periods, abortions, poor conception rates and may produce blind, weak or dead kids. Since vitamin A is stored in the liver, it can be given only once every two to four weeks with the grain. Each doe should receive between 10,000 and 12,000 IU of vitamin A per day six weeks before she kids and during her lactation period.

Vitamins A, D and E are necessary for reproduction. They can be purchased as a vitamin supplement from a feed distributor.

Finally, the best way to ensure that your goats are getting the type of feed they require for optimum reproduction is to have your feed tested at a recognized soil and feed testing laboratory.

June 8, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEED ALERT

Did you know that seven members of the mustard family and some 10 other weeds were the main threat to crop production in Alberta in 1907 when the provincial legislature introduced the first noxious weed act? Did you also know that today's farmers have to cope with almost 100 difficult to control weed species, 35 of which are on the Alberta Weed Alert Program list because they have not yet become firmly established?

Under this program agricultural service boards throughout the province identify new weeds that have moved into their areas, attempt to eradicate them while they are still in small patches in waste areas and to provide farmers with information on controlling them in cultivated fields.

F.D. Leavitt, supervisor of weed research and development with Alberta Agriculture, says that it is possible under this program to slow down the spread of newly introduced weeds and, hopefully, to avoid or at least minimize crop losses that will ultimately occur.

Since 1907 successive revisions of the Weed Control Act have placed the major focus on newly introduced "weed alert" weeds in an effort to decrease or stop their spread. Initially, weed workers and farmers are successful in slowing down the spread of each new weed species, but the weeds gradually spread to nearby farmers until the infestation becomes general in those areas that are suited to the species.

Mr. Leavitt says new weed species will continue to be introduced into Alberta from other areas of Canada, from the United States and from Europe, and that they will continue to threaten food production on our farms. He also says that new control measures,

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Weed Alert (cont'd)

whether they be cultural or chemical, will have to be developed to cope with new weed species. Unfortunately, cultural control methods, particularly in view of the present trend towards continuous cropping (no summerfallow), are seldom effective in eliminating the competitive effects of weeds in a crop. This means that farmers must turn even more to herbicide control measures. Except in the cases of minor crops and weeds, herbicides are now available that can suppress and often totally control numerous weed species.

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June 8, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH HORTICULTURAL HOME STUDY COURSES OFFERED THROUGH OLDS COLLEGE

Through a co-operative arrangement with the University of Guelph in Ontario, Olds College is now offering a number of credit and non-credit home study courses in horticulture.

The credit courses have been prepared by the Office of Continuing Education at Guelph and may be used for credits towards an Ontario Diploma in Horticulture, providing the student meets all the pre-registration requirements set out by the University of Guelph. These include such things as academic standing, age and prescribed time limit.

The courses may also be used for credits at Olds College, providing they are relevant to the program in which the student plans to enroll, or they may be taken for the sheer enjoyment of learning about horticulture. In either case, the student can start and finish the course when it is convenient to him or her.

Following is a list of the credit courses, some of which are multi-media (contain a written text, a cassette tape, a film strip and a viewer) while the others consist of written material only.

Qualified Plantsman

A course of great value to all horticulturists from hobby gardeners to commercial horticultural producers. Some of the topics covered are: plant use, soil use, lawns, insect pests, annuals, biennials, herbs, fruits, bulbs and organic gardening. Evaluation consists of four mail-in assignments and a final examination. It is a multi-media presentation. Price $100.

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University Of Guelph Horticultural Home Study
Courses Offered Through Olds College (cont'd)

Nursery Management

An introductory study on operating a nursery business, including nursery layout, plant production, harvesting, shipping, storage, etc. It is a multi-media presentation. Price $65.

Fundamentals Of Garden Design

A study of the principles of designing modern landscapes on large and small properties with emphasis on plant materials and choice of location. Price $50.

Elementary Greenhouse Management

An introductory course on greenhouse design, heating, cooling, soils, lighting factors, temperature and humidity. A general knowledge of botany would be an asset in this course, which is also a multi-media presentation. Price $55.

Non-Credit Horticulture Courses

These small home study units are intended to provide the user with a great deal of useful information on the topic concerned. However, since units contain very little background theory, they are primarily intended for the amateur. They carry no credit value toward a diploma at either Guelph University or Olds College.

Following is a list of the units which are all multi-media presentations:

- Flower Arranging — Price $22.
- Indoor Plants — Price $20.
- Propagation of Tropical Plants — Price $20.
- Deciduous Trees — Price $20.

- (cont'd) -

University Of Guelph Horticultural Home Study
Courses Offered Through Olds College (cont'd)

It is hoped that the following additions will be available by September 1 of this year.

- Plant Propagation for the Home Owner — Multi-media — Price $50.
- Plant Use in the Home Landscape — Multi-media — Price $70.

Olds College also hopes to eventually have a complete line of agricultural home study courses that are offered by Guelph University.

For further information and/or application forms contact:

Correspondence Office
Olds College
Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO.

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June 8, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEED TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

A seed technology workshop is scheduled to take place at Olds College in Olds on June 22, 23 and 24.

Its objective is to provide seed buyers, seed growers and seed company representatives with the latest technological information applicable to the seed industry and to give participants an opportunity to share their experiences and concerns in this area.

The agenda will cover: "Principles of Seed Quality"; "General Session on Seed Analysis"; "Concurrent Practical Sessions on Seed Analysis"; (senior seed analysts will explain germination analysis, purity analysis, the embryo test for smut on barley, seed identification and tetrazolium tests); "Principles and Calculations Related to Seed Drying"; "Principles and Calculations Related to Seed Storage"; "Principles of Seed Cleaning"; "Processing and Handling Equipment"; "Canadian Seed Certification System"; "Seed Contracting and Secan"; and "Import-Export and Market Trends".

The cost of the workshop is $100 which includes registration, tuition, a binder, three noon lunches, coffee and a barbeque.

Pre-registration applications, accompanied by a $30 deposit, must be received by Olds College not later than June 17. Cheques should be made payable to Olds College and sent to the Department of Continuing Education, Olds College, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO.

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June 8, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENERGY CONSERVATION SEMINAR PLANNED FOR DRUMHELLER

A seminar for rural homeowners who would like detailed information on energy conservation building practices and passive solar design techniques will be held at Roman's Banquet Room in Drumheller from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on June 17. It is being sponsored by Alberta Agriculture's home and community design branch and the Drumheller district extension office.

Topics on the program include:

- Planning and Designing the Farm Home
- Energy Conservation Building Practices
- Mechanical Systems for Low Energy Homes
- Passive Solar Design Aspects
- Retrofit Projects

There will also be a question and answer period, and the registration fee is $5 per person or $8 per couple.

For further information contact Tom Goddard, district agriculturist at Drumheller (Telephone: 823-5740) or Don Wharton, home design branch in Edmonton (Telephone: 433-5841).

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June 8, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO PROMINENT ALBERTANS TO RECEIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD

John G. Stothart of Red Deer and Peder N. Staal of Camrose will be honored at the annual Pork Congress banquet in Red Deer on June 17. Both are to receive the Pork Industry Leadership Award for their contributions to the swine industry.

As director of the federal research station at Lacombe, Mr. Stothart became well known for producing the Lacombe breed of hogs in the 1950's. This breed has added much to swine breeding programs on the North American continent and elsewhere. By the time he retired in 1976, he had judged at most of the top swine shows in both Canada and the United States.

Mr. Staal came to Canada from Denmark in the 1930's and was instrumental in introducing to Alberta the record of performance swine herd programs for which Denmark is well known. He was also a prominent 4-H leader and was presented with the prestigious Canada 4-H Council Leadership Award.

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June 8, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA TO HOST CANADIAN SEED GROWERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The 77th annual meeting of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association will be held at the Lethbridge Lodge Hotel in Lethbridge, Alberta, on July 9 and 10, 1981.

Topics on the agenda will include the SeCan association, taxation, and estate planning. There will also be a speaker from the chemical association and a number of dignitaries.

An agricultural tour of southern Alberta has been planned for July 11.

Since Alberta has the opportunity to host this event only every eight years, anyone interested in it is strongly urged to attend.

If you have any enquiries or require more information pertaining to the 1981 annual meeting, please contact:

Bill Witbeck
Bag Service No.47
Lacombe, Alberta, TOC 1SO.
Telephone: 782-4641

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June 8, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL HEALTH DIVISION APPOINTED

Morley Douglas, Alberta Agriculture's assistant deputy minister of production, has announced the appointment of Dr. Ralph Christian to the position of director of the department's animal health division. Dr. Christian replaces Dr. H.N. Vance who retired recently.

Dr. Christian's responsibilities will include inspection programs, disease prevention programs, extension and investigative research and the activities of the diagnostic laboratories. He will also be in charge of meat inspection, toxicology and the diagnosis of animal diseases that are transmissible to human beings.

He comes from Lethbridge and has spent some time in Ontario. He graduated with a D.V.M. from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1966 and took a post-graduate diploma in veterinary pathology at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) in Saskatchewan in 1970. The following year he became a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

From 1966 to 1967, Dr. Christian practised veterinary medicine in Wetaskiwin, and then joined Alberta Agriculture's veterinary services division as a laboratory veterinarian. After his post-graduate work at WCVM, he became head of Alberta Agriculture's Peace River regional veterinary laboratory at Fairview, where he remained until 1972 when he became head of the veterinary laboratory services branch in Edmonton. Dr. Christian remained in that position until his present appointment.

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AGRI-NEWS

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June 15, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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June 15, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUPPORT FOR PROVINCE'S HOG PRODUCTION SECTOR ANNOUNCED

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Dallas W. Schmidt, has announced two measures that will provide more than $17 million in support for the province's hog production sector.

The two measures are a new producer-designed and operated hog assured returns program and a three-month extension to the current Alberta Emergency Stop-Loss Program for Hogs.

The new program will be a voluntary producer contributory assured returns program for hogs. It will be designed and supervised by a committee with representation from hog producers and the Alberta Government. Conditions for producer participation will also be developed by the committee.

The Hog Assured Returns program will be operated by the Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board and will run for 45 months, starting July 1, 1981 and continuing until March 31, 1985.

It will be supported by a $10 million start-up grant from the Alberta government. The government will also provide guarantees of up to $10 million in bank loans to supplement the $10 million start-up grant to ensure the fund is capable of meeting the demand during peak periods of cash flow.

The price support level will be determined by the Pork Marketing Board and will be indexed for cost of production increases. The level will be designed to be actuarially sound. The Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board will also establish and operate the stabilization account and will make it available for provincial audit.

The Alberta Emergency Stop-Loss Program for Hogs will be extended to cover the period from April 1 through June 30, 1981. The total cost of the extension, estimated at $7.05 million, will be borne by the Alberta government.

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The stop-loss program, which paid in excess of $16 million to hog producers in this province between April 1, 1980 and March 31, 1981, was initiated as an interim measure to restore confidence and prevent erosion in the province's hog industry, which was then under pressure from low prices and increased production costs.

"The emergency stop-loss program was created in the absence of a national plan that would provide effective and equitable stabilization to the entire Canadian pork production industry," Mr. Schmidt said in May 1980. He says "Over the past year it became evident that no such plan would be forthcoming and this meant that Alberta would require a long-term program of its own."

Several proposals intended to meet such needs were developed last winter and refined during the spring. The new Alberta program will operate for just about four years, and it is the government's intention to review and evaluate it and assess appropriation of residual funds at the program's termination in 1985.

"The Hog Assured Returns Program will ensure pork producers a reasonable return during periods of low prices and it will enhance the maintenance of our hog industry and the viability of our family farms," Mr. Schmidt says. Since the program is voluntary and contributory, it is important that producers have the opportunity to tailor it to their needs."

June 15, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAIR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REVISED

Dallas Schmidt, Alberta's minister of agriculture, has announced two revisions to the Fair Assistance Program that will affect sheep breeders. One is that breeders who exhibit breeding stock at the All Canadian Sheep Classic Show in Brandon, Manitoba, will now receive assistance, and the other is that breeders who wish to exhibit at an American fair that is designated as a "national" show for the breed will receive assistance.

All Canadian Sheep Classic Show

Assistance available for the All Canadian Sheep Classic is $55 per animal shown. It replaces the cancelled $35 per animal assistance that was available for sheep shown at the Canadian Western Agribition in Regina.

American National Shows

Sheep breeders who wish to exhibit breeding stock in the United States can now receive assistance for one American show a year, providing that the show they choose is designated as a "national" show. The assistance will pay the major part of the transportation cost and will be pro-rated on the basis of the distance the show is from Alberta.

Sheep breeders are advised to obtain a new list of designated American "national" shows each year from Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch.

Exhibitors who intend to apply for assistance under the revised Fair Assistance Program should keep all records that prove that their animals were entered and shown. Additional information on the revisions and application forms for assistance can be obtained from Beef Cattle and Sheep Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8. (Telephone: 427-5335).

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June 15, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUSTRALIAN'S RATE BULLS ON MATING CAPACITY

by C.A. Huedepohl
Alberta Agriculture

This is the time of year when the majority of the thousands of bulls that were purchased at various sales in Alberta, or privately, will be exposed to cows for the first time, and in most, if not all cases, not enough is known about them when they are purchased.

For many years bulls were selected on the basis of their pedigree and a visual appraisal. Since about 1960 in Alberta there has been growth performance information available on some bulls and other measurements like semen evaluation, scrotal circumference, and frame score have been available (again on some bulls) to, hopefully, simplify the job of selecting and buying bulls.

However, in Australia some beef seed stock producers are apparently providing information which enable their bull-buying customers to better evaluate the worth of a breeding bull. The tests now conducted on some Australian beef bulls are a significant improvement over the older ones in determining what a bull is worth, according to John Yelland of the Glentrevor Hereford Stud, Milawa, Victoria, Australia.

For sometime now beef producers in Australia have accepted, in varying degrees, the concept of performance testing (as have Alberta and other North American breeders) and they have pioneered the use of scrotal circumference measurements in selecting their breeding stock. The latest test in Australia used for evaluating beef bulls is called the serving capacity test. It basically involves counting the number of times a bull will serve a female in 40 minutes after it has been stimulated by watching other bulls mounting females.

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Australians Rate Bulls On Mating Capacity (cont'd)

Mr. Yelland, whose Glentrevor Stud will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year, was astonished to find when he first tried this test on his sale bulls about seven years ago that he had several that did not serve a single female in the 40 minutes. He has now increased the average serving capacity of his bulls from 5.2 serves in 1974 to 8.9 serves in 1981 by emphasizing a high serving capacity. To achieve this increased libido, he used bulls with a tested serving capacity as high as 19 serves in 40 minutes. He reports that evidence to date indicates that the daughters of high serving capacity bulls in his herd are themselves more fertile.

By using a combination of the scrotal circumference measurement and the serving capacity test, Mr. Yelland is able to estimate a mating capacity for each of his sale bulls. He is finding that his large commercial customers are selecting the bulls with a high mating capacity rating (at a significantly higher price) but buying only two where they would previously have bought three. He says that his own herd bulls are regularly used to breed 100 females per year each under pasture conditions in a one season calving program.

Dr. Michael Blockey of the Pastoral Research Institute, Hamilton, Victoria, Australia, who has been instrumental in developing the serving capacity test, believes that the test predicts with a 90 per cent accuracy a bull's serving capacity under pasture mating conditions.

For further information on the above subject contact the author of this article. His address is Animal Industry Division, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street. Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8. (Telephone: 427-5085)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATTLE OUTLOOK

Alberta's slaughter steer prices are expected to remain in the mid-$80 per hundredweight range during July and to decline somewhat in August. However, this fall's feeder cattle prices are expected to average below those recorded in the fall of 1980 when 600 - 700 pound steers in Edmonton averaged well above $80 per hundredweight.

Carolyn Scott, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, reports that prices paid for A1 and A2 slaughter steers and heifers in Alberta have ranged from the mid-$70 to the low $80 per hundredweight level in the second quarter of this year, and that they have continued to be moderated by weekly slaughter volumes in Canada. Alberta's total cattle slaughter to date has averaged 24,514 per week, representing a 0.5 per cent increase compared with the same period in 1980. Ms. Scott also reports that heifer and cow slaughter is continuing to exceed year-ago levels as profitability is a serious concern.

"The total cattle slaughter in Canada has exceeded that of a year ago because live imports from the United States have supplemented Ontario's domestic slaughter," she says. "Hence a price improvement here will depend upon the American market."

Slaughter steer prices in Omaha, U.S.A. are currently expected to go above $70 US per hundredweight during the third quarter of this year, and the volume of cattle slaughtered is predicted to be higher than it was during the same period in 1980. Ms. Scott says the expected decline in the number of U.S. hogs slaughtered during the remainder of 1981 will provide support for cattle prices in the United States and eventually in Canada.

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June 15, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOG OUTLOOK

Alberta hog prices could move into the low to mid-$70 per hundredweight (dressed) range in July before declining later in the third quarter.

This is the opinion of Carolyn Scott who is a market analyst with Alberta Agriculture. She explains that because hog slaughter in Alberta during the third quarter will be very close to that of the third quarter in 1980, any improvement in prices here will depend upon American prices. She expects Omaha prices to reach $52 US per hundredweight live in mid-July.

Based on actual sow farrowings and farrowing intentions in 1981, as reported in the April 1 Statistics Canada Hog Inventory Survey, Canadian hog slaughter will continue to exceed the 1980 level. While the percentage of increase in farrowing intentions is much less than it was a year ago, hog producers who are still facing market losses are continuing to expand their production. And a further expansion could result from the higher hog prices that are currently being experienced.

Alberta hogs sold for $70 per hundredweight dressed in the second week of June after having finally moved above $60 per hundredweight dressed at the beginning of May. Ms. Scott says the price rise in May was due to support from the American hog market. As the U.S. hog slaughter continues to decline from the year-ago level, cash hog prices at Omaha have advanced to $49.25 US per hundredweight live or $74.79 per hundredweight dressed in Canadian dollars.

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June 15, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H'ERS PICK UP "CHICKS"

Bob Coe
4-H Branch, Alberta Agriculture

Northwest Region 4-H'ers have a date with their "chicks" on June 16! The 4-H'ers are mostly in their teens but their "chicks" are only one day old — they are an oriental strain of ringneck pheasants.

This is the fifth consecutive year that cases of 25 and 50 pheasant chicks have been distributed by the Brooks Wildlife Centre to 4-H families throughout the province.

Dave Moyles, wildlife biologist at the Brooks Wildlife Centre, estimates 5,500 chicks will arrive at the Edmonton area distribution point.

"About 20,000 day-old pheasant chicks will be distributed throughout the province this year", says Moyles. "The purpose is to provide 4-H'ers with the opportunity to learn how to raise pheasants and what is required for the birds to survive when they are released to forage for themselves in the fall."

The day-old chicks will be transported to the Edmonton region from Brooks in two large vans. They are scheduled to arrive at Crop Care Fertilizers Ltd. in Spruce Grove at about 4 p.m. on June 16.

Jack Latham, owner-manager of the fertilizer company, is an executive officer of the Northwest Regional 4-H Council. He has 11 tonnes of pheasant chick feed starter and ration stored in his warehouse for distribution along with the chicks.

The ringneck pheasant, a native of China, was introduced to the Canadian wilds in 1908 from parent stock developed in the United States. The birds flourished until the 1950's and 60's when agricultural development destroyed much of their natural habitat. The 4-H pheasant raising project was started in 1976 by Alberta Energy and Natural Resources to repopulate the species.

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4-H'ers Pick Up Chicks (cont'd)

More than 11,000 pheasant chicks were delivered to 4-H'ers in the Red Deer, Stettler, Airdrie and Lethbridge 4-H regions in late May. Individuals travelled to Brooks to pick up the chicks at the wildlife centre. On June 23, another 3,000 chicks will be picked up at the centre and delivered to clubs in the Vermilion region. On the same day, 2,300 will be flown to Grande Prairie for distribution to 4-H pheasant project members.

With each box of 25 pheasant chicks, 4-H members will receive a 25 kilogram sack of starter and a 25 kilogram sack of feed ration.

In 1979 the Alberta Fish and Game Association presented the prized Chemsell Conservation Award to Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch in recognition of its 4-H pheasant project.

4-H members raising pheasants under the project are required to keep detailed records of their progress and success. Last year, 83 per cent of all the chicks were successfully raised to maturity – a figure regarded as high even by professional hatchery standards.

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June 15, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CUTTING WINTER-INJURED ALFALFA

Alfalfa crops which suffered severe winter injury should not be cut before they reach the 10 to 50 per cent bloom stage. By that time they will have had a chance to recover from the injury and to build up food reserves in their root systems.

The lack of snow last winter and very low soil temperatures caused winter injury and a reduction in plant vigor in an estimated 30 per cent of alfalfa crops in central and northern Alberta. This situation resulted in some alfalfa plants being in the bud to first flower stage while others in the same crop were still only a few inches high.

The early cutting of a stressed alfalfa crop results in low stored food reserves which, in turn, causes slower regrowth, with increased competition from weeds and a greater potential for additional injury the following winter.

Ken Lopetinsky, forage crops specialist with Alberta Agriculture, advises farmers who have several fields of alfalfa to cut the better growing, more uniform crops first. This strategy will allow more time for the poorer, less uniform crops to recover and to build up their food reserves.

The first cut of alfalfa should be timed so that the second will take place after the August to mid-September critical harvesting period. Dr. Jim McKenzie of Agriculture Canada's research station at Beaverlodge reports that his studies have shown that cutting alfalfa in north-central Alberta and in the Peace River region during the critical harvesting period results in a higher potential for winter injury because the plants often enter the winter with low food reserves. He says the first cut should be taken towards the latter part of June to give the plants a regrowth period of 60 to 75 days before the second cut is taken in mid-September.

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Cutting Winter-Injured Alfalfa (cont'd)

Even though the crude protein level of alfalfa decreases somewhat as the plants mature, and their fibre content increases, a crop cut at the 50 per cent bloom stage and baled in the absence of rain will provide a 12 to 15 per cent crude protein feed.

Mr. Lopetinsky says feed quality is important, but timing the first cut of an injured alfalfa crop to enable the plants to recover is equally important this year. He points out that the way a farmer treats his alfalfa crop this season will determine the type of stand he will have in years to come. Crops that are not cut during the August to mid-September critical harvesting period will be better able to compete with weeds, including grasses, and, thus, maintain a higher yield and quality over a longer period.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POCKET GOPHER CONTROL RESEARCH

Do you have a legume field that you seeded this spring? Do you live south of Rocky Mountain House and west of Highway No.2? If so, Dr. Michael Dorrance of the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville would like to hear from you.

Dr. Dorrance wants to examine as many newly established legume crops as possible for his research on pocket gophers, commonly known as moles. He wants, for example, to obtain data on the movement of these animals, the relationship between them and weeds and the effectiveness of treating field headlands with a herbicide to prevent them from moving into legume fields.

Past research indicates that controlling weeds can affect the number of pocket gophers on a newly established field of legumes for at least the first one or two years after it has been seeded. Pocket gophers are more likely to move into a weedy field because they need the weeds for food while the legume seedlings are becoming established. The gophers tend not to move into a weed-free legume field until the fall of the second year when the legumes are big enough to provide food. The diet of a pocket gopher is predominately made up of broadleaved weeds, especially dandelions, and they are apprently unable to survive on a diet composed mainly of grass.

Although the chance of finding an inexpensive, effective method of removing a heavy pocket gopher infestation from an established legume field seems remote at the present time, Dr. Dorrance believes that it should be possible to prevent pocket gophers from becoming established by creating a grass barrier around the field and treating the headland with a herbicide. He says that this year's research will attempt to determine the effectiveness of treating headlands and creating grass barriers.

Dr. Dorrance's address is Alberta Environmental Centre, Bag 4000, Vegreville, Alberta, TOB 4LO (Telephone: 632-6767).

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June 15, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDUSTRIAL AND URBAN VEGETATION MANAGEMENT IN ALBERTA

Urban and industrial vegetation management is a thriving industry in Alberta, where large acreages of agricultural and native land are being converted for industrial and urban uses, and where millions of dollars are spent every year by industrial land owners.

While there is a considerable amount of action being taken at the moment, there is a distinct need for more inter-disciplinary planning of vegetation management programs. Biologists, agriculturists and the general public must continue to make their voices heard by the giants of industry. Conversion may be a slow process but eventually even the single-minded giants must succumb to fact and logic.

The rapid industrial growth and the attendant increase in population in this province has resulted in many thousands of hectares of land being converted to urban and industrial use. The extent of this conversion is probably best brought into perspective by the statement made at recent hearings conducted by the Environmental Council of Alberta that the oil industry removes almost as many hectares of forest cover in exploration and development activities as does the logging industry. Although much of this initial disturbance will be abandoned and allowed to regenerate naturally, substantial areas will require vegetation management practices to be applied to maintain sites, roadways and pipeline rights-of-way.

Public pressure dictates that government agencies apply stringent regulations to ensure that all the needs of our society are met. It is no longer acceptable for industrial land to serve only the needs and dictates of a particular industry. Power and pipeline rights-of-way, where the facility is either above or below ground, are required to be managed in such a way that they serve a dual or multi-use purpose. Where they traverse forested areas, for example, they are expected to serve as a wildlife habitat as well as an energy transmission corridor. Thus,

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vegetation managment programs are required to be mutually compatible to both uses. Because of the need to adhere to rigid specifications in the development and subsequent maintenance of the vegetative cover, many companies, which are basically staffed by professional engineers and technologists, are now engaging biologists to ensure that these standards are met.

The increase in public concern expressed early in the 1970's about the use of herbicides for brush and weed control has prompted industrial landowners to review their methods of vegetation management, with a view towards establishing acceptable guidelines that are in keeping with the demands of today's society. To eliminate the single most important disadvantage of chemical vegetation control, that of brown-out, which creates an aesthetic problem, buffer strips of 30 metres are required when pipeline or powerline rights-of-way cross major highways.

This and other restrictions are self-imposed through the Industrial Vegetation Management Association of Alberta. Although incorporated only two years ago, it functioned as an informal committee throughout the 1970's. It is comprised of major industrial landowners, such as power, pipeline and railway companies and herbicide supply firms and commercial applicators. Its main objective is to set and monitor ethical and technological standards for the industry to ensure that proper vegetation management practices are employed in the maintenance of industrial lands.

Personal and community pride dictates that industrial properties be as well landscaped and maintained as homes and commercial establishments in the general area. This has led to towns and cities imposing a higher standard of vegetation control through more stringent enforcement of the Weed Control Act. A decade ago urban municipalities paid scant attention to weed control, while today most appoint weed inspectors and engage competent personnel to manage their control programs.

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Industrial And Urban Vegetation Managment In Alberta (cont'd)

Although Alberta Agriculture's main responsibilities lie in servicing the agricultural industry, there is ample justification for its involvement in urban municipalities and industrial agencies. Many of our major weeds, unfortunately, but understandably, were first introduced into towns and traffic rights-of-way. Two prime examples are the recent introduction of nodding thistle and diffuse and spotted knapweed, both of which were initially found in urban municipalities and on highways and railway rights-of-way.

Such introductions are preventable if proper attention is paid to vacant lots and land disturbed by construction. Towns are beginning to recognize these problems and are converting old railway station sites and other vacant land into parks, parking lots and similar uses.

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June 15, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AN IDEA FOR SAFETY

Albertan and British Columbian inventors with a flair for safety will now have an opportunity to be rewarded for their inventions.

A new farm safety contest known as Project IDEA (Implements Designed to End Accidents) is giving away $7,000 in cash prizes to entrants who offer the best ideas leading to the design of safer farm implements. Co-sponsored by Alberta's Farm Safety Program, which is administered by Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation, and the Farm Equipment Dealers' Association of Alberta-British Columbia, the project is open to farmers, farm workers and farm family members who are working on farms in Alberta and British Columbia.

Project IDEA will be in effect from June 15 until November 30, 1981. Entries will be judged by a team of adjudicators comprised of mechanical engineers, farmers and representatives of the Farm Safety Program, the Farm Equipment Dealers' Association and other organizations. The winners will be announced early in January 1982.

The purpose of the contest is to promote farm safety by encouraging farmers to design modifications that will make farm implements safer to operate. The adjudicators will be looking for three factors when they examine the ideas that are submitted. They are: originality, cost-efficiency and the practicality of incorporating the ideas into the design of farm implements. Entrants must convince the adjudicators that their ideas would not curtail the functional effectiveness of the implements.

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An Idea For Safety (cont'd)

The project represents the second time that the Farm Safety Program and the Farm Equipment Dealers' Association have co-operated in promoting farm safety. These two organizations co-produced the popular Farmers' Safety Almanac last summer, and it appears that Project IDEA is going to be just as successful.

You can obtain further information on Project IDEA from Soloman Kyeremanteng, Farm Safety Program, Oxbridge Place, 9820-106 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2J6 — Telephone: (403) 427-8943 ; or from the Farm Equipment Dealers' Association of Alberta-British Columbia, Suite G, 3801-21st Street, N.E., Calgary, Alberta, T2E 6T5 — Telephone (403) 277-7581.

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June 15, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COVERING AND SELLING HAY

Do you sometimes wonder whether it would pay you to cover your hay?

Storage losses mean less hay or a reduction in the quality of your hay. Both forage crop and feed specialists report that up to half the feeding value of hay is lost between the time it is cut and the time it is fed or sold, depending upon the season. This loss is in addition to that sustained from late cutting. The most common cause of this loss is leaching which is caused by the weather and/or bleaching, leaf loss and storage loss in the bale or stack.

Cash hay crop farmers like to cover that part of the first-cut that is not sold immediately after harvesting. It is not so important to cover the second cut because it is exposed to the weather for a shorter period.

A publication entitled "Does it Pay to Cover Hay" is designed to help individual farmers to decide whether it would pay them to cover their hay. It contains cost and budget worksheets.

"Does It Pay to Cover Hay" (No.871-1) and another publication entitled "A Price For Standing Hay" (No.821-8) were both compiled by Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch and can be obtained from district agriculturists or the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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June 15, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMICS BRANCH APPOINTMENTS

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has announced the appointment of an acting district home economist at Sedgewick and the appointments of the following district home economists-in-training.

Beverly Krol

Ms. Krol has been appointed acting district home economist in the Sedgewick area, where she will be working with rural families. The main emphasis of her work will be on farm women, beginning families and low income people.

She was born in Lethbridge and moved to Spirit River, where her family has a farm, when she was three years old. She graduated from the University of Alberta this year with a B.Sc. (home economics), having majored in clothing and textiles.

Evelyn Andruski

Ms. Andruski is taking her district home economist training at Olds. She was born in Athabasca and later moved to Salmon Arm and then to Vancouver in British Columbia. She graduated from the University of British Columbia this spring with a B.H.E.

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District Home Economics Branch Appointments (cont'd)

Jan Nesom

Ms. Nesom is taking her district home economist training at High Prairie. She was born in Red Deer and moved to a mixed farm west of Bowden at the age of 10. She graduated from the University of Alberta this spring with a B.Sc. (home economics), having majored in family studies.

Trina Rentmeister

Ms. Rentmeister is taking her district economist training at Ponoka under Randi Sanbu. Ms. Rentmeister was born in Claresholm and grew up on a mixed farm just east of Stavely. She graduated from the University of Alberta this spring with a B.Sc. (home Economics), having majored in food and nutrition.

AGRI-NEWS

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June 22, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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June 22, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMODITY TRADING AND TAXES

by Merle Good
Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture

When driving in the city for the first time, many people find themselves in a most embarrassing situation — travelling the wrong direction on a one-way street! The same dilemma can occur to farmers trading in the futures market unless the basic rules and "traffic signs" are followed.

Trading in the futures market will yield two distinct types of taxable income and loss. If your transaction is deemed to be one of "income", your profits are fully taxable and losses fully deductible. If, on the other hand, you are deemed to be a speculator, you have the option of having all of your transactions treated as either "income" or "capital" in nature. A capital trade means all gains or losses are treated either as a capital gain or as a capital loss. One-half of the gain is taxable or one-half of the loss is deductible. It soon becomes apparent that most farmers would like their profits treated as a capital gain but their losses completely deductible. Before we discuss the rules and regulations that pertain to differentiating a transaction between "income" or "capital" there are a number of basic concepts that are common to both.

- When a contract is purchased or sold, the resulting profit or loss is calculated in the year in which the deal is finalized. For example, a contract purchased in November of 1980 and sold in March 1981, results in a loss or gain in the year 1981.
- Any money placed down as margin may not be considered as an expense.
- A resident of Canada is subject to tax on profits from commodity futures transaction whether they are conducted through a Canadian or a foreign exchange.

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Commodity Trading And Taxes (cont'd)

What constitutes an "income" transaction?

Revenue Canada states that you must report gains and losses from trading in commodities or commodity futures as ordinary income or loss if you:

a) Take future positions in commodities connected with your business as part of your business operations. A common example would be a farmer hedging his barley crop.

b) Have access to special (inside information) about the commodity which you use to your benefit. This even includes an officer or an employee of a business that is concerned with the particular commodity.

What constitutes a "speculative" transaction?

Transactions not related to the above will generally include all speculative transactions. The option of reporting these trades as either "income" or "capital" transactions exists, but once you have adopted one of these methods, you must use it consistently for all future transactions.

Although these definitions appear to be rather straightforward, a combination of different factors yields very interesting results. The following situations are presented to fine-tune the basic concept.

- Mr. Brown grows rapeseed in 1979, but trades soybeans (a very closely related commodity). Can he elect either to have his profits treated as income or capital as allowed to any speculator or do all profits (losses) have to be declared as income?

  If he grows rapeseed but not soybeans, and has no soybeans on hand, he will be considered a "speculator" with respect to any transaction in soybean futures, providing he does not grow soybeans to fill or partially fill his future position.

- In 1979 Mr. Brown grows 100 tonnes of rapeseed (a normal crop) and decides to purchase or sell five contracts which represent 500 tonnes. Can he elect to have the 100 tonnes treated as a hedge and the remaining 400 tonnes as a speculative venture?

  If he sells future contracts representing 100 tonnes of rapeseed, the "income" treatment is mandatory. He will also be bound to have the remaining 400 tonnes treated as an "income" transaction.

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Commodity Trading And Taxes (cont'd)

- What if Mr. Brown does not grow any more rapeseed in 1980?

  If he did not grow rapeseed in 1980 and subsequent taxation years, he would be considered a "speculator" with respect to future rapeseed transactions. But, if Mr. Brown has an inventory carryover of rapeseed from 1979, any transaction will be treated as "income" until the inventory is liquidated.

- What if Mr. Brown finances his future transactions through borrowings? Is the interest deductible?

  If his transactions are given "income" treatment, the interest on the borrowed funds is a deductible expense. To the extent that borrowings are used to finance "speculative"contracts, the interest is not deductible in computing either income or capital gains or losses.

A new factsheet entitled "Commodity Trading and Taxes" is recommended reading for a better understanding of the tax implications in commodity trading. The fact sheet explains the rules regarding the use of farm corporations and the procedure to follow in "writing off" losses against regular income.

You can obtain a copy of "Commodity Trading and Taxes" (Agdex 837-8) from your local district extension office, the Farm Business Management Branch, P.O. Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO, or the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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June 22, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW WAYS OF HANDLING ROUND BALES

New haying equipment, designed to overcome current problems involved in the handling and storing of large round bales, will soon be available to Western farmers.

A contract awarded to Olds Ag-Tech Industries Ltd. of Olds by the federal government will help to develop a carrier that will pick up, transport, stack and later retrieve from the stack six large round bales. A prototype of this machine was tested under Alberta and Saskatchewan conditions in 1979 and 1980.

It picks up the bales with a grab and swivel mechanism and places them on the carrier. The bales can then be stacked three on end in two columns in a hay shed or they can be covered with a tarpaulin. The machine can also stack the bales in two columns of two bales placed on end and a third placed on its side on top. This configuration gives a more stable stack and better resistance to weathering. When large round bales are stacked, the lower bales receive less weather damage and require less storage area.

Although a number of the larger farm implement manufacturers have expressed an interest in building this machine, only a limited number will be manufactured this year by Olds Ag-Tech Industries Ltd.

Cal-Fran Mechanical Design Ltd. of Calgary was also awarded a research contract by the federal government to develop a tier for large round bales. At the present time, round balers have a device on them that wraps a single twine around the circumference of the bale. This twine can catch on machinery, unravel and allow the bale to fall apart when it is handled mechanically. Cal-Fran engineers have developed a device that twists the last three wraps of

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New Ways Of Handling Round Bales (cont'd)

twine into a single strand and the friction within this strand prevents the twine from unravelling. Hence, the bale is better able to hold it shape and to stand up to mechanical handling. However, further work and testing is required to improve the tier before it is manufacturered on a large scale.

The research into these new ways of handling large round bales is being supervised by the federal research station at Lethbridge.

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June 22, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRODUCING IDENTICAL TWINS TO ORDER

Micro-manipulation of embryos in cattle breeding is being investigated at the Institute of Animal Physiology, Cambridge, England, one of the world's leading animal reproduction research stations.

The new technique, which follows the successful development of embryo transfers, involves dividing embryos to produce more than one identical animal from a single egg; alternatively, it can be used to combine cells from two eggs to produce one animal of mixed genotype.

Although there are at present few practical uses for mixed genotypes, the production of identical twins, triplets or quadruplets from a single egg could be valuable to researchers, breeders and commercial embryo transfer companies. Scientists would, for example, be able to compare more accurately feeding methods, milking techniques and types of housing. By subjecting animals of the same genotype to differing conditions, experimental results should be more reliable, and it is claimed that fewer animals would be required.

Scientists have already produced identical twin, triplet and quadruplet lambs and identical triplet Hereford cattle by dividing very young embryos at the two and four cell stages into separate cells. But so far there has been little success in dividing eight cell embryos to produce identical octuplets. Embryo survival from the division of eight cell eggs is less than 10 per cent at the present time.

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June 22, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REJUVENATING FARM SHELTERBELTS

The best method of rejuvenating an overcrowded multi-row shelterbelt is to thin out the trees, according to Herman Oosterhuis, in charge of Alberta Agriculture's tree planting programs. This will allow those that remain to get more moisture and to expand their crowns.

You can either remove one or more rows of trees or you can remove portions of trees like the Manitoba maple and willows which have multiple trunks. The removal of an entire row of trees is the simplest and probably the most frequently used method of thinning.

Removing the trees that have been cut down and dead wood from a shelterbelt is usually a bigger job than the cutting. In areas where there is enough moisture to cause the wood to decay, it can be left there to rot. If, however, the wood is diseased or infested with insect pests it should be collected and burned.

Thinning is not usually necessary in a single-row shelterbelt because the trees have room to spread their roots on each side of the row. However, the removal of every second tree is recommended in a row of spruce that have been planted only 1.5 m or less apart.

Pruning, which usually involves removing dead or diseased parts of a tree, can be done at any time of the year, but if it involves removing live branches, it should only be done when the trees are dormant.

When removing a broken branch, the broken part should be cut back flush with the larger branch or the trunk: The stub of a broken branch should never be left on a tree, and large cuts should always be covered with a wound dressing to protect the tree from insect attacks and parasite fungi.

The pruning of an older shelterbelt should be limited as much as possible to removing large, wide-spreading branches and to correcting the shape of the trees. The lower branches should not be pruned because their removal would open up the lower part of the shelterbelt and, thereby, reduce its sheltering effect.

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Rejuvenating Farm Shelterbelts (cont'd)

Pollarding, which involves cutting back the crown of a tree to the old wood, is not recommended unless the height of the tree must be controlled. A tree that is pruned in this manner will react by sending out an abundance of new sprouts which develop into branches. This type of pruning is usually practised on fast-growing trees like poplars to control their height, especially under power lines. Since the large cuts caused by pollarding are not usually covered with a protective dressing, they do not heal over and the tree eventually decays. Hence, in addition to destroying the natural beauty of the shelterbelt, the lifespan of the trees is shortened.

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June 22, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Note to the Editor: *The following article has been printed again because the original one contained a number of inaccuracies.*

PFRA EXPANDS WATER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Changes to the Prairie Farm Regional Administration (PFRA) Water Development Program will increase the financial assistance that farmers and ranchers receive for water development projects.

Drilled Wells and Bored Wells

Financial assistance will be provided for one-third of the eligible costs of drilled wells or $5 per cased-foot, whichever is less, up to a maximum of $1,500. However, the well must be constructed in accordance with PFRA standards and specifications and it must meet the requirements of various provincial agencies. Also, the work must be properly documented to quality for this assistance.

In the case of bored wells, financial assistance will be provided for one-third of the eligible costs or $11 per foot of cribbed-depth, whichever is less, plus one third of the cost of a large diameter screen.

Dams and Dugouts

Financial assistance will be provided for one-third of the eligible costs or 16¢ per cubic yard, whichever is less, up to a maximum of $1,500.

Individual Irrigation Projects

The total financial assistance for individual irrigation projects is based on the unit price or one-third of the eligible costs, whichever is less, up to a maximum of $2,000.

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PFRA Expands Water Development Program (cont'd)

Neighbor Projects

Neighbor Wells

The total funding when two or more farmers develop a well is one-third of the eligible costs or $5 per cased-foot up to a maximum of $1,500 per applicant The applicants must demonstrate joint ownership and/or control of the project.

Neighbor Irrigation Projects

Assistance for projects involving two or more farmers is based on unit prices or one third of eligible costs, whichever is less, up to a maximum of $2,000 per applicant. Again, proof of joint ownership and/or control must be provided.

Neighbor Stockwatering Dams, Dugouts and other Water Source Development

When two or more farmers jointly develop a water supply, the total financial assistance per project will be based on unit prices or one-third of the eligible costs, whichever is less, up to a maximum of $1,500 per applicant. Applicants who apply for a project as a neighbor scheme must produce evidence of joint ownership and/or control of the project.

Group Projects

PFRA financial assistance for water development projects in small urban communities is not available in Alberta. Needs of this kind can be met by Alberta Environment's recently announced Municipal Water Supply and Sewage Treatment Grant Program.

Further information on the PFRA program and application forms can be obtained from any extension office or from your nearest PFRA office.

June 22, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AN EXPLANATION OF HAM

Do you get confused when you are confronted by all the different forms that ham is sold under? If you do, you are not alone. Many people apparently have trouble deciding which is the best buy.

To try to remedy the situation, Aileen Whitmore, food and nutrition specialist with Alberta Agriculture, has summarized the main characteristics of each type of ham and listed them in order of increasing price per pound. However, she first explains that there are a number of processed pork products (smoked picnic, cottage roll, etc.) that look very like ham but cannot be called ham because they are made from the shoulder of the pig whereas all the different types of ham come from the hind leg.

A whole ham with the bone in (it actually contains three bones) that is unwrapped is cured with a curing solution and then smoked to a temperature of 69° C. This means that it does not have to be cooked. You can expect to get two and-a-half servings per pound from this ham.

A centre cut is part of the whole ham described above, as are the butt end and the shank end. The centre cut may be sold in either one large piece or in slices,and the proportion of meat to bone is much higher than it is in the butt and shank ends. You can expect to get three and-a-half servings per pound compared with three servings for the butt end and only two servings for the shank end. The shank end contains a large bone and joint and a higher percentage of fat than the butt end.

A semi-boneless ham is cured and smoked in the same way as a whole ham. The main difference between the two is that the semi-boneless has only one bone and has had some of the fat and all the skin removed. It is wrapped in cryovac, and you should get three servings per pound.

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An Explanation Of Ham (cont'd)

A boneless ham is the same as a semi-boneless except that it contains no bone and will provide three and-a-half servings per pound.

A dinner ham has no bone and is what is called a "massaged" ham. This means that it has been mechanically massaged to hold the individual pieces of meat together. This type of ham is also wrapped in cryovac and should provide three and-a-half servings per pound.

Semi-boneless, boneless and dinner hams are put into a fibrous casing before they are smoked, and this casing should be removed before they are cooked.

An Old-Fashioned Style ham is the "cadillac" of hams. It contains a choice muscle and is boneless. The ham is cured in much the same way as the other hams, but, while the others are hung and smoked, the old-fashioned ham is placed on a smoking tree to ensure an even distribution of the smoke. It is expensive, but it should provide you with three and-a-half to four servings a pound.

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June 22. 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURE ENERGY RELATIONS CO-ORDINATOR ANNOUNCED

Brian Colgan, director of Alberta Agriculture's land use activities division, has announced the appointment of Leon Marciak to the position of agricultural energy relations co-ordinator.

Mr. Marciak will be assisting Mr. Colgan with pipeline, powerline, coal mine, petrochemical and other energy matters that are referred to the department. He will also help to ensure that agricultural concerns related to impact, location and reclamation are properly addressed, and a large part of his job will involve working with farm organizations, energy companies and regulatory agencies.

Mr. Marciak comes from Edmonton and obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta in 1975. Following graduation, he worked for two years as district agriculturist with the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture in Kamloops, and then spent three years as a land management co-ordinator with Alberta Energy and Natural Resources.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2127

June 22, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CO-DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTMENTS

Alberta Agriculture's director of extension, John G. Calpas, has announced the appointments of James Unterschultz to the position of co-district agriculturist at Wainwright and of Patrick Ramsey to the position of co-district agriculturist at Wetaskiwin.

James Unterschultz

Mr. Unterschultz will be working with senior district agriculturist Arvid Aasen, and he replaces Murray Woods who resigned to take up full-time farming.

A native of Fort Saskatchewan, Mr. Unterschultz graduated with distinction from the University of Alberta last year with a B.Sc. (agriculture), having majored in economics. He also has a B.A. from the same university.

He has spent the past year taking his district agriculturist training in the Claresholm area with Al Toly, senior district agriculturist. Mr. Unterschultz's previous employment experience includes working on his father's mixed farm, summer assistant district agriculturist at Athabasca and three summers working for Imperial Oil and Sherritt Gordon in the fertilizer department. He has also been an active member of 4-H over the years.

Patrick Ramsey

Mr. Ramsey, who is replacing Ernest Smith, who was recently appointed district agriculturist at Airdrie, comes from Lumby, British Columbia. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan last year with a B.Sc. (agriculture), having majored in animal science. He has spent the past year training to be a district agriculturist at Peace River with senior district agriculturist Fred de Mille.

- (cont'd) -

Co-District Agriculturist Appointments (cont'd)

Mr. Ramsey has a farm background and won numerous 4-H awards in beef projects in the Lumby area. He spent three summers working for the logging industry and received the British Columbia Cattlemen's Association Scholarship when he entered university. His interests and hobbies include sports, horses, outdoor activities, wood and metal work and photography.

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AGRI-NEWS

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CANADIANA
AUG 24 1981

June 29, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

June 29, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL LIME FREIGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Dallas W. Schmidt, has announced a new assistance program to help farmers in acid soil areas with the cost of transporting lime.

Mr. Schmidt says the program, called the Alberta Agricultural Lime Freight Assistance (ALFA) Program, is a first in Alberta and in the Prairies. Under it the government will repay 80 per cent of transportation costs in excess of the first $5 per ton.

Transportation costs have been the main limiting factor in the use of lime or marl on Alberta's acid soils. The long distances required to get the bulky substance to areas where it is needed has also hindered the development of a provincial agricultural lime industry. To meet the expected demand that will result from the ALFA program, agricultural lime production is expected to be developed at Exshaw, Cadomin and near Rocky Mountain House.

With the assistance provided by the program, total lime costs to producers should average from $25 - $30 per ton in all areas of the province.

Crops grow best when the soil pH is in the 6 to 7.5 range on the standard scale of 0 to 14. Such crops as alfalfa and barley are especially sensitive to acidity, while others like oats and most grasses are more tolerant. With a pH of 5.5, alfalfa yields can fall by more than 50 per cent, and production is severely restricted when the soil pH falls below 4.5.

Between five and six million acres of improved land in Alberta would benefit from lime applications, and approximately 25 per cent of this area is in the Peace River region. About one million acres of Alberta soils, 300,000 of which are in the Peace River region, are strongly acidic and cause serious yield reductions. Another seven million acres of marginally or potentially acid soils will require liming within the next 20 years.

- (cont'd) -

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Alberta Agricultural Lime Freight Assistance Program (cont'd)

A soil test will quickly indicate whether soil is acidic and a lime requirement test will show the optimum rate of application. Most Alberta soils will require from 1.5 — 2.5 tons of lime per acre and each application should last 10 years or more.

The agricultural need for lime is mainly in the Peace River region, western and northern Alberta (Rocky Mountain House-Barrhead-St. Paul) and in the east-central portion of the province (Drumheller to Castor).

Transportation assistance will be based on a producer's receipted invoice of transportation costs. A formula has also been developed to help producers who use their own vehicles to transport lime or marl all or part of the distance from a quarry to their farm.

Farmers who want to apply for assistance under the ALFA Program should obtain application forms from their district agriculturist.

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June 29, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLACKLEG VACCINES STILL RECOMMENDED

Despite the death of eight calves, reported by Alberta Agriculture's diagnostic laboratory at Airdrie, following their vaccination with a three-way blackleg — malignant edema — shipping fever vaccination in May, the department is still recommending vaccinating for blackleg.

Dr. Neil Palechek, beef extension veterinarian, says the cause of the eight deaths was an anaphylactic reaction to the three-way vaccine, and that cattlemen could lessen the risk of such a reaction by using the standard two-way vaccine (blackleg — malignant edema) instead of the three-way one.

He points out, however, that it is possible for an adverse reaction to occur with any vaccine given the right circumstances, and he recommends that cattlemen report all adverse reactions to the use of a vaccine to their veterinarian or local health of animals officer.

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June 29, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEADLINE FOR HOG EMERGENCY STOP-LOSS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

The deadline for receipt of applications for assistance on hogs marketed after April 1 under the extended Alberta Emergency Stop-Loss Program is August 31.

Application forms must be submitted for all hogs that qualify for assistance and that were sold to abattoirs or outside the jurisdiction of the Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board. The forms that were printed before the program was extended to June 30 will be accepted and can be obtained from regional swine specialists and district agriculturists. Application forms do not have to be submitted for hogs that were sold through the marketing board.

Payments on hogs for April, May and June, the period that the program was extended to cover, will be based on the difference between the average weekly market price paid to Alberta producers and the support prices for those months adjusted to a 101 grade index. The support price was $69.92 per hundredweight for April; $70.44 for May and $70.43 for June.

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June 29, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CROW-RATE – THE GREAT DEBATE

"Crow-Rate – The Great Debate" is an historical bibliography that is intended to help people who are interested in this subject to establish their own points of view.

Susan Jensen, reference librarian with Alberta Agriculture, who compiled the bibliography, believes that it is extremely important for farmers to familiarize themselves with the facts about the Crow's Nest Pass rates and to become involved in this subject. She says that if they do not take part in the decision-making process, somebody else will make the decisions for them.

The Crow rate, as it is commonly called, is a special rail freight rate that is applied to the transportation of grains and flour from shipping points in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba to Thunder Bay, Churchill and ports in British Columbia. The original agreement between the federal government and the Canadian Pacific Railway, known as the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement, was signed on September 6, 1897. Under it, the CPR agreed to maintain the Crow rate in perpetuity. However, problems with the special rate have arisen over the intervening years and both farmers and politicians are divided on their solutions.

If you are interested in the Crow rate and would like a copy of "Crow Rate – The Great Debate", you can get one from Susan Jensen, Reference Librarian, Alberta Agriculture Library, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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June 29, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HAY CUTTING TIME

by Glen Werner
Senior District Agriculturist, Stettler

When is the best time to cut hay? When you can have the maximum yield, the highest quality and at least a week without rain! Sound impossible? Well maybe, but there are some basic considerations which can help in achieving at least some of these goals.

The first objective when harvesting forage is to obtain the maximum amount of feed per hectare to meet the nutritional requirements of the livestock to be fed. The second, and often more practical consideration, is to harvest the maximum amount of high quality forage. The final decision on when to cut is a compromise between obtaining the greatest quantity and the highest quality.

Some significant points which have been observed from various research projects over the years can be summarized as follows:

- Legumes are considerably higher in quality, especially crude protein, than grasses.
- Legumes maintain a higher level of quality later into the season than grasses.
- Nutrient quality of all forages decreases as maturity advances.
- Animal consumption of forages decreases as quality decreases.
- Species and growing conditions affect the quality of the forage.
- Grasses should be harvested at or shortly after heading for maximum high quality yield.
- Legumes should be harvested from budding to about the 10 per cent bloom stage for maximum high quality yield.
- Harvesting at the above times can often facilitate a second cut or considerable pasture potential in late summer if moisture and growing conditions are good.

- (cont'd) -

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Hay Cutting Time (cont'd)

The preparation of hay for storage means mechanical harvesting, which cannot be carried out until the forage is cured. Good curing requires dry, warm conditions. Although it is often said that only fools predict the weather, our environmental weather service is developing an impressive record in long range (3-5 days) forecasts. Before you cut your hay -- check by listening to the long range forecasts. There is no point in cutting your hay if a wet front is moving into the area in a day or so.

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June 29, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DUTCH ELM DISEASE ACTION COMMITTEE

If you see any elm trees that you believe could have Dutch elm disease, you are asked to report them to your nearest agricultural office.

Wilting and curling of the leaves on one or more branches is a typical symptom of the disease from mid-June to mid-July. Later the leaves shrivel and turn brown, but they usually remain on the tree. If the disease strikes later in the season, the leaves on one or more branches turn yellow, droop and fall prematurely. The leaves on suckers or twigs, especially those growing out of the trunk of the tree, may wilt and turn brown. Sometimes the early and later symptoms overlap.

So far, Dutch elm disease has not made its appearance in Alberta, but it has spread to all the provinces from Prince Edward Island to Manitoba since it was first identified in Quebec in 1944. It has also invaded all the states that are adjacent to Canada's southern border.

The Dutch Elm Disease Action Committee, organized in 1977 to prepare for an outbreak in Alberta, helped to formulate and implement the following measures that have been adopted to prevent the disease from gaining a foothold here.

- The Provincial Tree Nursery discontinued distributing elms in 1977.
- Edmonton Parks and Recreation no longer plant elms in new housing developments.
- Annual surveys are carried out for the presence of native and European elm bark beetles which are the vectors of the fungus that cause Dutch elm disease. None have been found to date.
- Municipalities and cities are being encouraged to participate in the Dutch elm disease control program.
- A Dutch elm disease control regulation has been passed to make it possible to control the disease on private property if this should become necessary.

- (cont'd) -

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Dutch Elm Disease Action Committee (cont'd)

- Posters that ask tourists not to bring firewood into Alberta have been sent to all the tourist agencies in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Montana; and similar material has been distributed to the six points of entry on Alberta's southern border. Custom officials have been asked to display these posters and to remove firewood from incoming vehicles. And posters and copies of the control regulation have been sent to all provincial parks, towns and villages in the province.

The Dutch Elm Disease Action Committee is made up of representatives from city parks, provincial parks, the Canadian Forestry Service, the Alberta Nursery Trades Association and Alberta Agriculture.

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June 29, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEED GROWERS' WORKSHOP

The Alberta Branch of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA) will host a free seed growers' workshop for probation growers, and anyone else who is interested in becoming a seed grower, in Lethbridge on July 13.

The national president of CSGA, Len Haney, will be at the workshop and will discuss SeCan. Orrin Clayton from CSGA in Ottawa, who also plans to attend, will outline CSGA's rules and regulations. Other speakers will include Art Strain, vice-president of the Alberta Branch of CSGA; Dr. Mark Grant, a plant breeder from Lethbridge; Bob Thirsk of Kelsey who will represent the growers' point of view; and Steve Klack, plant products inspector.

The afternoon will be devoted to field programs and demonstrations at Agriculture Canada's research station in Lethbridge. There will be a demonstration of current licensed cereal, oilseed and special crop varieties. Plant characteristics and roguing off-types will also be covered and there will be a question and answer period.

Registration will take place at 8.30 a.m. in the Agriculture Centre in Lethbridge.

Further information on the workshop can be obtained from: Bill Witbeck, Secretary-Treasurer, Alberta Branch of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, Bag Service No.47, Lacombe, Alberta, TOC 1SO (Telephone:782-4641).

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June 29, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLEAN FIELD CONTEST

How about a clean field contest in Alberta? Weedy fields, like anything else that needs improving, get much more attention than fields that are in top-notch condition.

Manitoba Agriculture has started a Clean Field Contest at Steinbach in the southeastern part of that province. It consists of two categories, one of which is for fields which contain more than 16 hectares. The other is for fields which contain a minimum of five hectares and a maximum of 16 hectares. To qualify, the fields must have been seeded to wheat, oats, barley, flax or rapeseed and each farmer can have only one entry.

Registration is free and potential participants can obtain entry forms from elevators, farm supply outlets or their local Manitoba Agriculture office.

Everyone who takes part in the contest will receive a participation certificate and the top three winners in each of the two categories will receive herbicide prizes. The overall winner will receive a trophy.

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Alberta
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June 29, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A LIST OF ALBERTA'S MARKET GARDENERS

Where are Alberta's market gardeners located? What do they sell? When are they open? And how can you find them?

A publication entitled "Alberta Market Gardeners" lists the names and addresses of approximately 110 of the main market gardeners in the province, and gives directions on how to get to their premises. It also tells the months and days that the market gardens are open, the main crops grown and the methods by which sales are conducted. These include farm gate sales (where the vegetables have already been picked); pick-your-own sales (where you harvest your own produce) and farmers' market sales (where you buy the produce from the producer at one of Alberta's farmers' markets). Last year Alberta had approximately 1,200 acres in fresh fruit and vegetables and approximately 225 market gardeners.

Why has the demand for market garden produce increased so much? First, people are becoming more quality conscious and are demanding better quality and fresher produce. The increased cost of these products in grocery stores is another factor. Still another is the delight many urban residents experience from the country atmosphere of a market garden. The market gardens where customers can pick their own produce have a special appeal for many people.

According to Lloyd Hausher, market garden specialist with Alberta Agriculture, most market gardeners in the province have built up a clientele of regular weekly customers. "Some strawberry producers", he says, "draw customers from a radius of 300 miles every year to harvest a carload of fresh berries."

Corn and cucumbers top the list in number of acres being produced in Alberta. They are followed by cabbage, cauliflower, peas and other types of vegetables.

- (cont'd) -

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A List Of Alberta's Market Gardeners (cont'd)

If you would like a copy of "Alberta Market Gardeners" you can get one from your district agriculturist, any of Alberta's travel information centres, L. Hausher, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO or the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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June 29, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON CANNING

Are you planning to can fruit and vegetables this season? If you are, you will probably find the answers to some of the following questions helpful. The answers were provided by Agriculture Canada's food advisory division.

Q. Is an oven reliable for processing fruit, tomatoes or vegetables?

A. No. This method is dangerous. When canning these foods, it is important to monitor and control the processing temperature. With an oven, the temperature will vary depending on the accuracy of the thermostat and the circulation of heat. Dry heat penetrates jars of food very slowly, and it is difficult to be sure that the food reaches a high enough temperature for a sufficient length of time to destroy the bacteria that cause spoilage. There also is a danger that the jars will explode during processing. Hence, oven-processing is not recommended under any circumstances.

Q. What processing method should be used for fruits and tomatoes?

A. These foods can be safely processed in a boiling water bath. Since fruit and tomatoes contain acids, sugars and starches, the yeast and molds that grow in these foods usually have a low resistance to heat and are destroyed at the temperature of boiling water (100 ° C). However, some varieties of tomatoes have recently been found to contain an inadequate level of acid to be safely canned in a boiling water bath. Because there is no way of determining acid quality at home, it is safer to add a small amount of citric acid. After filling the jars with tomatoes, add 1 mL citric acid or 15 mL reconstituted lemon juice to each pint jar and process it in a boiling water bath. Fresh lemon juice cannot be used because its acidity varies.

- (cont'd) -

Questions And Answers On Canning (cont'd)

Q. Which method is safe for processing vegetables?

A. The pressure canner is the only satisfactory device for obtaining a high enough temperature to destroy the resilient bacteria and their spores. Low acid foods, such as vegetables, are hard to sterilize because dangerous bacteria thrive on them. Since the boiling temperature will not completely destroy these bacteria or the heat-resistant spores they form, vegetables must be processed at a temperature that is higher than 100° C. This necessitates using a pressure canner instead of a boiling water bath.

Q. Many steam canners are now available on the market. Are these recommended for processing?

A. No. Steam canning has not been thoroughly tested to determine whether or not the processing times are the same for steam canning as for a boiling water bath. In the meantime, consumers should continue to use a boiling water bath for processing high acid foods such as fruit and tomatoes.

Q. How do I check my pressure canner before the canning season?

A. First, check to be sure the weighted pressure regulator, the safety valve and the steam vent are clean and have not rusted. Then make sure the gasket is clean and fits tightly. Replace any worn or defective gaskets and gauges.

Q. Can pressure saucepans be used for canning?

A. Small (pint) jars may be safely processed in a pressure saucepan if you have a special adapter that regulates the pressure at 70 kPa (10 pounds pressure). To correct the faster heating and cooling that occurs in a pressure saucepan, you must increase the processing time by 20 minutes.

- (cont'd) -

Questions And Answers On Canning (cont'd)

Q. Why are meat, poultry and fish not recommended for home canning?

A. Because there are no tested Canadian methods or processing times available to home canners at the present time. These foods are extremely difficult to can safely because of their fat content and compactness. Also, it is difficult to be sure that a high enough temperature is reached in the centre of the container to kill the dangerous bacteria.

Q. Where is the best place to store canned foods?

A. Canned foods should be stored in a cool, dry place. Keep glass jars in a dark storeroom, wrap them in newspaper or place them in cartons because light causes the food to darken.

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June 29, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIELD VETERINARIAN TO BE LOCATED AT AIRDRIE

Dr. Ralph Shute, head of Alberta Agriculture's livestock inspection section, has announced that Dr. Ray Fenton will be joining the animal health division as a field veterinarian located at Airdrie.

In his new position, Dr. Fenton will be responsible for supervising the auction market and community pasture inspection programs, cattle extension and disease investigations in southern Alberta. He will also maintain contact with other department personnel in the southern and south-central parts of the province and provide emergency relief in the diagnostic laboratory at Airdrie.

A native Albertan, Dr. Fenton spent two years in a private veterinary practice in Ontario and another nine years in Alberta at Fort Saskatchewan. Since July, 1980 he has been conducting a study under contract with Alberta Agriculture of the reproductive status of dairy herds in the Edmonton area.

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Alberta
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June 29, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RECENT APPOINTMENTS

The head of Alberta Agriculture's regional economic and business services branch, Sandy Lauder, has announced the appointments of two economists to the departments regional offices in Fairview and Lethbridge.

Fairview

Mr. Lyle Smith has been appointed to the position of regional economist (marketing) at Fairview, where he will play a key role in implementing and evaluating programs for department staff, agribusiness and farmers. This is a new position that was established to coordinate the ever increasing and critical area of marketing.

Mr. Smith was born and raised on a mixed livestock and grain farm in Alberta and has a B.Sc. in animal science and an M.Sc. in agricultural economics from the University of Alberta. After graduating, he worked for two years as a market economist with the federal government in Ottawa and then returned to Alberta where he has been employed with Alberta Agriculture's production economics branch for the past four years.

Mr. Smith has already moved to Fairview and is looking forward to the challenges and opportunities of his new position.

Lethbridge

Ken Bunnage, formerly district agriculturist at Strathmore, where he had special responsibilities for farm management programs in the Strathmore, Calgary and High River districts, has been appointed to the position of an agricultural economist at Lethbridge. His duties will be related to the development and promotion of business management programs and financial, tax and estate planning.

- (cont'd) -

Recent Appointments (cont'd)

He is a native of Alberta and has a B.Sc. in agricultural economics from Brigham Young University in the United States and an M.Sc. in agricultural economics from Washington State University, U.S.A.

Mr. Bunnage was engaged in farming throughout his youth and has taught at the University of Alberta. He has also worked for Alberta Agriculture in both the farm business management branch and in the extension service as a district agriculturist.

He and his family will be moving to the Lethbridge area in the near future.

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Alberta

AGRICULTURE

MEMORANDUM

FROM Diana Rodney
Agri-News Editor

OUR FILE REFERENCE

YOUR FILE REFERENCE

TO District Agriculturists

DATE July 6, 1981

TELEPHONE 427-2127

SUBJECT AGRI-NEWS

We are sending out a minimum of "Agri-News" articles while the postal strike is on because we have no way of getting them to the news media or to our other subscribers.

If you can pass on the articles that we send you to your local news paper we would appreciate your doing so.

Diana Rodney

Diana Rodney

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
AUG 2 3

July 6, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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Co-District Agriculturist Appointments. 4

Coming Agricultural Events. 5

Alberta
AGRICULTURE

July 6, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIVESTOCK MARKETING ECONOMIST APPOINTED

David Walker, head of Alberta Agriculture's marketing analysis branch, has announced the appointment of Carolyn Scott to the position of livestock marketing economist.

Ms. Scott will be responsible for providing all sectors of the livestock industry with market situation and outlook information and for providing economic and policy analysis. She will also hold extension meetings on marketing for livestock producers.

Ms. Scott was born in Stratford, Ontario and grew up on a dairy farm near Stratford. She obtained her B.Sc. (agriculture) with honors from the University of Guelph in Ontario, having majored in agricultural economics. She is currently working on her M.Sc. (agricultural economics) and is specializing in agricultural marketing.

Ms. Scott joined Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch in 1979 as a marketing economist. Her work included research projects connected with livestock and grain marketing.

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Alberta
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July 6, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HORT WEEK DEADLINE

The deadline for registering for the 17th annual Hort Week at Olds College in Olds is July 22. It will be held from August 3 to 7.

Hort Week is intended to enable people interested in horticulture to obtain authentic and up-to-date information on new developments in the industry. Highly qualified instructors and discussion leaders will present information taken from practical experience and from research studies.

This year's program consists of 10 courses: two basic commercial floral design courses, an intermediate commercial flower design course, an advanced cc mmercial floral design course; a greenhouse growers' clinic; a homemakers' flower arranging course; a course on judging cut flowers, a course on arranging flowers, a course on judging yards and gardens and a course on judging grains and grasses. The program will also include a turf field day.

Lorne White, who, as owner of White's Florist in Calgary, has 30 years of experience in the floral industry, will be the senior designer for one of the basic design courses. He will be assisted by recommended designers from across Western Canada.

Harvey Pope, who has operated his own shop in Toronto for 18 years and is now instructing in the Masters Florist Program at Seneca College in Toronto, will be the senior designer for the intermediate commerical design course.

Lily Briggs of Costa Mesa, California, U.S.A., who has had successful careers in both New York and Los Angeles and is instructing at Coastline College, will be the senior designer for the advanced commercial design course.

- (cont'd) -

Hort Week Deadline (cont'd)

Dr. Jim Tsujita of the University of Guelph, Ontario, and Dr. Mirza Mohyuddin of the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks will be guest speakers at the growers' clinic. The other speakers will be Carl Schultz, vice-president, Ickes-Braun Glasshouses Ltd.; Don Graves, national sales manager, Filon; Herb Van der-Ende, Burnaby Lake Greenhouses; Professor Hugh Knowles, University of Alberta; and Gordon Jensen, Sunnyside Greenhouses.

The instructors for the judging courses will be George Shewchuk of Edmonton, (cut flowers); Marilyn McArthur of Red Deer (flower arrangements); Tom Gibson of Sylvan Lake (yards and gardens); and Buck Godwin of Olds College (grains and grasses).

The fee for the basic and intermediate floral design courses is $70 each. The fee for the advanced floral design course is $75. The fee for the greenhouse growers' clinic is $50 and the fee for the home makers' flower arranging course is $10. The fee for the judging courses is $8 each and the fee for the turf field day is $10. The charge for room and board at the college, which is optional, is $77.35 each for the basic, intermediate and advanced floral design courses and $57.35 for the greenhouse growers' clinic.

If you would like to register for Hort Week or would like more information on it, contact the Department of Continuing Education, Olds College, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO. (Telephone: 556-8343 or 556-8344).

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July 6, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CO-DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTMENTS

Alberta Agriculture's director of extension, John G. Calpas, has announced the appointments of Beverly Knull and Rudy Warawa to the position of co-district agriculturist at Leduc and Ryley respectively.

Beverly Knull

Ms. Knull, who has spent the past nine months working as assistant district agriculturist in-training at Red Deer, joins senior district agriculturist Elmer Bittner and district agriculturist Janette MacDonald Adam at Leduc.

She comes from Millet and is a 1980 B.Sc. (agriculture) graduate from the University of Alberta. Apart from her farm background experience, and her 4-H activities, which included a number of executive positions, she has spent several summers working in the accounts department of various branches of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Rudy Warawa

Mr. Warawa joins district agriculturist Jerome Manchur in Ryley, after having spent the last nine months as assistant district agriculturist in-training at Athabasca.

Mr. Warawa was born and raised in the Mundare area and graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1978. He has a major in agronomy and a minor in agricultural economics.

In addition to farming experience which he gained working on and helping to manage his father's farm, Mr. Warawa spent a term as a data compiler with the University of Alberta's animal science department. He also spent a summer working for Mundare Farm Sales and Services, and was appointed agricultural fieldman for the county of Minburn in the spring of 1978.

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COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

1981

Canadian Home Economics Association Conference
Toronto, Ontario. . . . . July 6 - 9

77th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Seed Growers Association
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . July 9 - 10

Canadian Seed Growers Association — Annual Convention
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . July 9 - 10

Breton Field Day
The Breton Plots
Breton, Alberta . . . . . July 10

Federal/Provincial Conference of Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . July 13 - 14

Federal/Provincial Conference of Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture
Tour (Lethbridge to Edmonton) . . . . . July 15

Federal/Provincial Conference of Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture
Government House
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . July 16

Corn Growers 1981 Annual Convention
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A. . . . . July 15 - 18

Klondike Days
Edmonton Northlands Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . July 16 - 25

Provincial 4-H Dairy Show and Team Judging Contest
Red Deer Exhibition Grounds
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . July 18

International Summer Meeting
Society for Range Management
Bismarck, North Dakota, U.S.A. . . . . July 20 - 23

Alberta Women's Week
Olds College
Olds, Alberta. . . . . July 20 - 24

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

10th International Course on Plant Protection
Wageningen, Netherlands. . . . . July 20 - October 30

Medicine Hat Exhibition
Exhibition Grounds
Medicine Hat, Alberta . . . . . July 23 - 25

Provincial 4-H Club Week
Olds College
Olds, Alberta. . . . . July 24 - 30

Alberta 4-H Conservation Camp
Silver Creek Ranch
West of Water Valley, Alberta . . . . . July 26 - August 1

Whoop-Up-Days
Exhibition Grounds
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . July 27 - August 1

Hort Week
Olds College
Olds, Alberta. . . . . August 3 - 7

Agriculture Institute of Canada — Annual Conference
Brock University
St. Catharines, Ontario . . . . . August 9 - 13

4-H Expressions and Horse Sense
Olds College
Olds, Alberta. . . . . August 10 - 12

Canadian Agriculture Economics Society — Annual Meeting
Brock University
St. Catharines, Ontario . . . . . August 10 - 12

11th International Course on Vegetable Growing
Wageningen, Netherlands. . . . . August 11

Alberta Horticultural Research Center — Annual Field Day
Brooks, Alberta. . . . . August 28

Western Extension Directors and Co-ordinators Conference
Lloydminster, Saskatchewan/Alberta . . . . . September 9 - 11

Canadian Agricultural Extension Council
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . September 14 - 17

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Western Nutrition Conference and Feed Industry Conference
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . September 14 - 18

Symposium and Workshop on Dutch Elm Disease
International Inn
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . October 5 - 8

Update '81
Jasper Park Lodge
Jasper, Alberta . . . . . October 5 - 9

Alberta Aviation Council — Annual General Meeting and Convention
Jasper Park Lodge
Jasper, Alberta . . . . . October 8 - 10

"Taking Stock" — Market Prospects for Cattle and Hogs
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . October 19 - 20

Canadian Farm Writers Federation — Annual Meeting
Terrace Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . October 22 - 24

Canadian Banker's Association 9th Agricultural Credit Conference
London, Ontario . . . . . October 26 - 28

Round-up '81
Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . October 31 - November 4

Women of Unifarm Convention
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . November 4 - 5

United Grain Growers Ltd — Annual Meeting
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . November 4 - 5

Edmonton Northlands Farmfair '81
Edmonton Northlands Sales Pavilion and Sportex
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 5 - 16

Royal Agriculture Winter Fair
The Coliseum
Exhibition Place
Toronto, Ontario. . . . . November 12 - 21

Seed Potato Growers Association of Alberta — Annual Meeting
Lethbride Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . November 18

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Alberta Potato Growers Association — Annual Meeting
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . November 19

Alberta Potato Commission — Annual Meeting
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . November 20

Fall Fair and Mexabition
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 20 - 24

Alberta Irrigation Projects Association (AIPA) — Annual Meeting
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . November 23

Alberta Wheat Pool — Annual Meeting
Palliser Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . November 23 - December 4

Agribition and Mexabition
Canadian Western Agribition
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 28 - December 4

1982

Palliser Wheat Growers Association Convention
Winnipeg Inn
Winnipeg, Manitoba . . . . . January 5 - 7

Unifarm Annual Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . January 11 - 15

Alberta Vegetable Growers Marketing Board — Annual Convention
Taber, Alberta . . . . . January 28

Alberta Canola Growers Association — Annual Meeting
Calgary Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . January 28 - 29

Western Stock Growers Association — Annual Meeting and Convention
Capri Hotel
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . January 28 - 30

Alberta Dairymen's Association — Annual Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . January 31 - February 2

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Agriculture Service Board – Annual Conference
Calgary Inn
Calgary, Alberta ..... January 31 - February 3

Society for Range Management – 35th Annual Meeting
Calgary Inn
Calgary, Alberta ..... February 8 - 12

Agriculture Week
Alberta ..... February 22 - 27

Accent '82
Calgary Convention Centre
Calgary, Alberta ..... March 17 - 18

Alberta Home Economics Association Conference
Calgary, Alberta ..... April 22 - 25

Canadian Home Economics Association Conference
Edmonton, Alberta ..... July 4 - 9

World Arabian Horse Organization – Annual Convention
Calgary, Alberta ..... August

United Grain Growers Ltd – Annual Meeting
Winnipeg, Manitoba. ..... November 3 - 4

Agricultural Business Management 1
Goldeye Centre, Alberta ..... November 15 - 17

Fall Fair and Mexabition
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... November 19 - 23

Agribition & Mexabition
Canadian Western Agribition
Regina, Saskatchewan ..... Novembe 27 - December 3

AGRI-NEWS

AUG 2 5 1981

July 13, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

July 13, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE PASSES

It is with deep sorrow that Alberta Agriculture announces the passing of Dr. James G. O'Donoghue who has been deputy minister since April 1975.

Dr. O'Donoghue was born in Stratford, Ontario, and attended the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph where he received his D.V.M. in 1942. He came to Alberta as a member of the federal health of animals branch in 1946 after having served overseas with the Canadian army. Two years later he joined the Alberta Veterinary Services Division as an extension veterinarian, which, at that time, included laboratory work, field investigations and the development of disease control programs.

Dr. James G. O'Donoghue

A worldwide deficiency in the extension field is people who can take ideas and make them work. Dr. O'Donoghue was an exception. He was practical and had a special ability when it came to making animal health programs work. An example is Alberta's Swine Herd Health program which has been in effect for close to 20 years, and which is highly respected around the world. Even the British bought hogs in Alberta in preference to other places because of the quality and integrity of this program.

Dr. O'Donoghue was the first veterinarian on the provincial board of health. This was an important first because it meant that several of the veterinary services programs were directed towards preventing the transmission of diseases like rabies, brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis from animals to people.

He was a pioneer in the areas of vitamin A deficiency in cattle and in the effects that sulphur dioxide and hydrogen sulphide from gas and oil fields have on livestock. He also

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Deputy Minister of Agriculture Passes (cont'd)

conducted pioneer experiments in the early 1960's concerned with the possible toxic effects of pesticides and herbicides on animals.

Department policies, programs and services brought him in to contact with farmers across Alberta who raised fur animals, poultry, hogs, cattle, sheep and horses. He was well liked and highly thought of by these people for his ability and analytical thinking which enabled him to solve many of their problems.

As deputy minister, Dr. O'Donoghue was involved in even broader fields and was greatly respected across Canada as well as on the international scene. His exceptional memory, mathematical ability, administrative skills and practical experience instilled confidence in those who came in contact with him.

Fishing was his main hobby,but he was also an expert carpenter and a good bridge player; and being Irish, a great conversationalist! In addition to being a very modest man, Dr. O'Donoghue was warm and compassionate when it came to both animals (cats were his first love) and people and he loved a good party! He will be greatly missed by all his colleagues and staff.

He is survived by his wife, Mildred, and one daughter, Kathryn Ward.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HAY QUALITY FACTORS

by Andy Birch
District Agriculturist, Stettler

There are many factors which determine the quality of hay and most of them can be controlled. Here are some things to keep in mind when assessing the quality and feeding value of hay.

- Leafiness – since most of the feeding value is contained in the leaves, avoid raking or baling hay when the leaves are very dry, especially in the case of legumes.
- Color – bright green hay is usually high in carotene (vitamin A) and protein. Remember weathering and stage of maturity at cutting time will influence the color.
- Palatability – this affects the amount an animal will eat voluntarily.
- Freedom from foreign material such as weeds, stubble from the previous crop, dirt and dust.
- Freedom from toxic materials.

Sources of Losses

A serious loss in quality occurs when hay is harvested too late. In fact, it is estimated that as the plants mature, protein losses average a quarter of a per cent per day and the fibre content increases by a third of a per cent per day. This results in a reduction in digestibility and intake of the feed as well as in its feeding value.

Most forages in the early bloom stage are still relatively high in digestible nutrients. Since there is no significant increase in volume after this stage, there is no point in waiting any longer before harvesting the crop. The recommended time to harvest legumes is when they are in the 10 per cent bloom stage and grasses when they are between heading and blooming.

Swathing, windrowing, mowing, raking, baling, handling and feeding all contribute to dry matter losses and care must be taken to ensure shattering losses are kept to a minimum after hay has been cut. Research studies have shown shattering losses can vary from 4 to 20 per

- (cont'd) -

Hay Quality Factors (cont'd)

cent, depending upon the moisture content of the hay. Raking losses have been reported to vary between 5 and 10 per cent in the case of native hay and to range as high as 25 per cent in the case of tame hay, particularly if it is raked when its moisture content is below 40 per cent.

Pickup adjustment is important in the minimization of these kinds of losses. Losses during this operation vary between one and 3 per cent, but have been reported to be as high as 5 per cent when pickups are poorly adjusted or poor windrow conditions prevailed. Losses at the bale chamber were around one per cent.

Fresh cut forage continues to breathe until its moisture content drops below 25 per cent, and there is research evidence to suggest that between the time the crop is cut and dried, respiration losses can cause a dry matter loss of 7 to 11 per cent. Hence, the shorter the drying time the better.

Plants contain some sugars and protein in soluble form which can be readily washed out by rain, thereby further reducing the nutritive level of the feed. It has been suggested that a rainfall of one inch on a hay crop can cause a loss of 3.5 per cent.

Hay which is stored too damp will heat. If the temperature in the stack exceeds 40° C a complex reaction occurs between the protein and the sugars in the plant material which makes them indigestible. This is sometimes referred to as the "browning" reaction because heated hay appears brown and has a tobacco odor.

Therefore, to put up high quality feed involves harvesting the forage at the proper stage, using well adjusted equipment, a skilled operator, and baling or stacking and storing at the proper moisture content. Of course, a little co-operation from the weather will help!

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July 13, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM SAFETY WEEK AND TOXIC GASES

Did you know that July 25-31 is Farm Safety Week? And did you know that toxic gases can be extremely dangerous in confined places like silos, grain storage tanks, liquid manure holding tanks and chemical tanks?

The Canada Safety Council stresses that the following rules should be strictly followed by anybody working in or around one of these areas.

- Make sure the area is well ventilated. Good ventilation is one of the best ways of clearing an area of gases.
- Ask yourself the following questions before entering a confined area. Is there a danger of toxic gas? Is there enough oxygen to support life? Is there danger of an explosion or of mechanical faults or failure?
- Use a self-contained breathing apparatus if you enter a silo during the two to three-week danger period after it has been filled, and always use a self-contained breathing apparatus if you enter a liquid manure holding area. Do not use a particle respirator.
- Never enter a confined space where there could be toxic gases without a life-line that is attached to someone outside. And always make sure somebody else is present before entering any confined space that could be dangerous.

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July 13, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOOD FOR THE TRAIL

by
Diane Bourne, Regional Food and Nutrition Specialist

Backpacking is a pastime that is quickly growing in popularity. And creating a tasty, satisfying nutritious meal for this pastime is a real challange! Why is it a challange? Weight! If the pack is too heavy, the trip won't be as enjoyable.

The foods chosen need to be lightweight — in other words, they should have a low water content. Examples are pastas, rice, dried fruit and commercially freeze-dried foods. Lightweight also means a minimum number of tinned goods.

The foods selected should be nutritious. You'll need more than the carbohydrates found in chocolate bars and other candies to keep you going. Besides a high carbohydrate diet tends to be bland and not very satisfying.

Following are some food ideas for the trail that are lightweight, nutritious, and require few utensils.

Breakfast

A unique idea for a backpacker's breakfast involves the use of heat-sealable bags. If you don't have heat-sealable bags, use regular plastic bags and your cooking pot. Place one serving of instant oatmeal, powdered milk and brown sugar in each bag. To cook, add boiling water to the contents of the bag and stir. The result -- instant breakfast! The heat-sealable bag serves as the storage container, cooking pot and eating utensil. And best of all, there is no pot to wash.

To dress up your cereal, you can add such things as wheat germ, dried fruit, cinnamon, sesame seeds or sunflower seeds.

A quick breakfast like this will allow you to make an early start on the trail.

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Dinner

Some type of stew is the answer for dinner because there is often only one cooking pot. However, a variety of ingredients can be combined to make a tasty meal.

There are three main parts to a backpacker's stew. for the first part, choose a carbohydrate food such as instant rice, potatoes, macaroni or a pasta. Then add a source of protein: peanuts, cashews, canned fish or freeze-dried meat. The third part is a sauce. Use dehydrated soups like tomato or cream of mushroom. You can add herbs and spices for extra flavor.

There is also a wide variety of freeze-dried vegetables that could be used.

Snacks

Choose snacks that are more than just calories. Consider taking along some GORP. It is a high calorie, nutritious snack, and, best of all, it is quick and easy to make.

What is GORP? Gorp is a mixture of fruit and nuts, but you can use a variety of ingredients. For the fruit portion, choose dried fruits such as raisins, dates, dried apples or figs. Then add your favorite nuts like peanuts, cashews or almonds. Other ingredients which are becoming popular are seeds like pumpkin or sunflowers. Some people add candies like chocolate chips to the GORP. Mix all your favorite ingredients together and package them in a plastic bag.

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July 13, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHEEP SPECIALIST APPOINTED

Dr. Bruce Jeffery, head of Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch, has announced the appointment of John Knapp to the position of sheep specialist.

Mr. Knapp's office is in Airdrie. He will be responsible for providing the sheep industry with extension information, and will have an operational responsibility to the federal-provincial sheep record of performance home and station testing programs.

He was born and raised in Alberta and obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta where he received the gold medal. Prior to attending university, Mr. Knapp worked as a mountain shepherd in Scotland. He has been employed by Alberta Agriculture since 1977 as assistant district agriculturist at Sedgewick and district agriculturist at Cardston.

He is married and has three children.

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July 13, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FOOD PRODUCTS BROCHURE

Alberta Agriculture's food marketing branch has revised Alberta's Food Products Brochure, which lists the brand name food products that are produced and/or processed in the province and which are available in Alberta retail stores.

Among the new products listed are Renoir Cheese from Alberta Farm Natural Produce; Ellison's Pancake and Waffle Mix made by Ellison Milling Co.; and Bradley Steak Shops' portion cut meats from the F.G. Bradley Co. Ltd.

Intended mainly for consumers, Alberta's Food Products Brochure is distributed to educational and health-care institutions, home economists, agricultural personnel, the media and others connected with nutritional education and the food service industry as well as to consumers. The information contained in the brochure is designed to help food buyers and consumers to choose products that have been made in Alberta.

A limited number of the brochures can be obtained from the food marketing branch in either Edmonton or Calgary. The addresses are as follows:

Food Marketing Branch
10035 - 108 Street
2nd Floor, Centre West Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3E1

Telephone: 427-4036

Food Marketing Branch
112 - 16 Avenue N.E.
Calgary, Alberta
T2E 1J5

Telephone: 261-8452

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July 13, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OLDS DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTMENT

Alberta Agriculture's director of extension, John G. Calpas, has announced the appointment of Lorne Turner to the position of co-district agriculturist at Olds where he will be working with district agriculturist Ron Woolf.

A native of Eckville, Alberta, Mr. Turner graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1980. He has a mixed-farm background which includes experience in dairying and 4-H.

For the past two summers Mr. Turner has been employed by Alberta Agriculture. As a forage crop technician with the plant industry division, he worked with forage associations in central and northwestern Alberta and then as a summer assistant district agriculturist he worked at Oyen. Both positions involved him in all aspects of extension.

He rejoined Alberta Agriculture in 1980 and took his district agriculturist-training at Westlock where he worked under senior district agriculturist Alan Hall.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PEACE REGION DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTMENTS

Alberta Agriculture's director of extension, John G. Calpas, and regional director, Eric Horton, have announced the appointments of several district agriculturists to the Peace River region. This is the first time in several months that all vacancies and district agriculturist positions in that region have been filled. The appointments are for the Manning, High Prairie, Peace River and Valleyview district offices.

In filling these positions some departure from the more traditional university recruitment and in-service training approach has been taken. In each case, the district agriculturists bring to their jobs a significant number of years of agribusiness or related professional education experience. One is the first district agriculturist to be appointed who is a city-raised green certificate program graduate.

The appointments are as follows:

Manning – Ann Marie Tretiak

A native of Edmonton, Ms. Tretiak graduated from the University of Alberta in 1977 with a B.Sc. in general agriculture. During her university terms she was employed at the University of Alberta Research Farm and also with Canada Packers. After travelling in Europe, she worked on a farm in Ontario.

During 1978 Ms. Tretiak was employed at Valley Farms in Namao where she received her Level II Green Certificate (100-sow farrow-to-finish swine operation). She was subsequently re-employed by Canada Packers as a sales representative and then accepted a term position with Fairview College where she instructed in various livestock courses. Ms. Tretiak succeeds district agriculturist Richard Stringham who has accepted a position with the Rural Education and Development Association.

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Peace Region District Agriculturist Appointments (cont'd)

High Prairie — Gabriel J. Tajcnar

A native of Barnwell, Alberta, Gabriel Tajcnar graduated from the University of Alberta in 1958 with a B.Sc. (agriculture) having majored in soil science. He continued on and obtained his B.Ed. (agricultural education) at the same university in 1959.

Mr. Tajcnar was employed with Alberta Agriculture in irrigation development work in southern Alberta from 1954-60, and also worked on the family dryland and irrigation farm. From 1960-1966 he was an instructor in sciences for the Stettler and Calgary school boards.

In the fall of 1966, he accepted a Canadian International Development Agency posting to Malaysia, where he was involved in training 400 agricultural science teachers during the next three years. Upon returning to Alberta, he obtained an M.Ed. (educational administration) from the University of Calgary and has been principal at the Standoff Blood Indian Reserve School for the last nine years. He has maintained a keen interest in agricultural developments both on and off the Reserve. At High Prairie he will be working with senior district agriculturist Frank Graves.

Peace River — Raymond M. Maubert

Raymond Maubert, a native of British Columbia, has been appointed co-district agriculturist for the Peace River district. He graduated from the University of British Columbia with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1968. During the summers of his last two years at university he worked as an assistant to district horticulturists with extension duties.

From 1969 until 1976, Mr. Maubert worked for Ciba-Geigy (Canada) Ltd. as sales representative, sales support supervisor and market planner. During this period he gained valuable experience in all aspects of weed, disease and pest control throughout Western Canada. From 1976-78 he was operations manager for Zoecon Industries Ltd. where he was responsible for the manufacture and packaging of livestock and consumer pesticides.

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Peace Region District Agriculturist Appointments (cont'd)

From 1978 until his present appointment Mr. Maubert was employed by Uniroyal Chemicals, Calgary. Here he was responsible for the product development of agricultural chemicals in Western Canada, which included technical support and meetings with government, dealers and the public.

He will be taking up residence at Peace River with his wife and two children, and will work with senior district agriculturist Fred de Mille on all aspects of department services in the North Peace sub-region.

Valleyview -- Dale R. Zobell

Dale Zobell, a native of Raymond, Alberta, has been appointed district agriculturist at Valleyview where he succeeds Glen Krishman who was recently transferred to Camrose. Mr. Zobell holds a 1977 B.Sc. (agriculture) degree from Utah State University in the United States where he majored in animal science. He also has an M.Sc. (animal nutrition) from Oregon State University, U.S.A., which he obtained in 1978.

Mr. Zobell was raised on an irrigated-mixed farm in southern Alberta and was in charge of various livestock projects in practical agriculture and applied research while he was at university. Upon completion of his M.Sc., he accepted a job with Cargill Nutrena Feeds where he has worked ever since in various capacities and at different locations throughout Western Canada. Before being transferred to Vermilion in 1980, as manager of a small feed mill, Mr. Zobell spent a short time in Winnipeg as coordinator of sales and production.

Prior to his present appointment, he was working out of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, where he was responsible for technical and marketing support for the Cargill Saskatchewan region. His training with this firm included their dairy and hog schools.

Mr. Zobell will be moving to Valleyview with his wife and five children, and as district agriculturist, he will be responsible for the full range of Alberta Agriculture's extension services.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMISTS APPOINTED TO PINCHER CREEK AND LLOYDMINSTER

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has announced the appointments of district home economists Roxana Nielsen and Joan McArthur to Pincher Creek and Lloydminster respectively.

Roxana Nielsen

Ms. Nielsen grew up on a mixed farm in the Olds area and graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (home economics) in 1979. Her field of specialization was clothing and textiles.

Prior to her present appointment, she was district home economist for the county of Vulcan. She took her district home economist training at Pincher Creek, and before that was assistant manager of Fanny's Fabrics in Calgary.

Joan McArthur

Ms. McArthur grew up on a mixed farm in Ontario and was an active member of 4-H and the Junior Farmers' Association. She graduated in 1980 from the University of Guelph with a B.A.Sc., having specialized in family and consumer studies.

Ms. McArthur took her district home economist training under Elizabeth Durie in Vegreville. While at University she spent two summers working for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food as an information officer and as a regional coordinator for the Junior Agriculturist Program. Following graduation she worked on the family farm and at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto until she joined Alberta Agriculture.

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AGRI-NEWS

July 20, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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July 20, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA CROP SITUATION

Cereal crops are generally good to excellent throughout Alberta this year, according to Marilyn Johnson of Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch.

Spring seeded cereal crops in the southern region are in good condition with a few exceptions around Medicine Hat and Pincher Creek. These exceptions were caused by late seeding or fertility problems. Fall seeded crops are in excellent condition, except for around Pincher Creek and Brooks where root rot has been reported in winter wheat. The quality of hay in this region is excellent and above average yields have been reported.

In south-central Alberta cereal crops are in good to excellent condition and canola crops are also excellent. Fall seeded crops are very good and the quality of hay crops in this area is very good, except for around Strathmore where they were overmature when harvested.

In the north-central region cereal crops have developed very well in the west, but crops in the eastern districts have suffered from lack of moisture. However, fall seeded crops in the north-central region as a whole appear to be good. The quality of hay is also good and yields are reported to be slightly above average.

In the northeast region cereal crops are fair to poor because of lack of moisture. Hay quality and yields are also reported to be fair to poor.

In the northwest region cereal crops are good to excellent, and canola crops are reported to be fair to good. Hay quality is excellent and yields are good.

In the Peace River region cereal crops are variable due to patchy rainfall. The worst areas are around Spirit River, Valleyview and Manning where very little rain has fallen since the crops were seeded. The hay crop is good in some places, but there is likely to be a shortage of feed in others because of lack of moisture and winterkill.

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July 20, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO AND A QUARTER MILLION GOVERNMENT TREES DISTRIBUTED

Two and a quarter million trees were distributed last spring between the end of April and the middle of May under Alberta Agriculture's Shelterbelt Tree Planting Program.

The trees, which went to 7,500 farmers and acreage holders across the province, were shipped from the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, which is adjacent to northeast Edmonton. The first centres to receive trees were in southern Alberta with those further north coming next until the whole province had been covered. Warner in the south received 56,331 trees this year, while Grande Prairie in the north received 61,618.

When the trees are ready for shipment to a certain district the county office is notified and a truck is despatched to the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre to pick them up. Most of the loads require a three-ton truck to handle the trees which are all done up in bundles. Each bundle contains the varieties of trees and shrubs that have been ordered by specific applicants, who are notified when their trees arrive. They then go to a local depot to collect them.

This year 350,000 evergreens (spruce and pine); 650,000 tall deciduous trees (poplar, willow, ash, maple); 400,000 shrubs (lilac, honeysuckle) and 850,000 caragana were distributed under the government program. An additional 225,000 requests could not be filled. These orders will be filled first next year.

Of this year's 2.25 million trees that were shipped, 1,700,000 were for farmstead shelterbelts; 150,000 were for field shelterbelts; 50,000 were for roadside hedges and 215,000 were for acreage plantings. Another 84,000 were to replace trees and shrubs that had died in previously planted shelterbelts.

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Two And A Quarter Million Government Trees Distributed (cont'd)

The list of trees that will be available for 1982 planting has already been mailed to all district agriculturist offices where application forms are also available. Next year's list includes poplars, willows, Manitoba maples, green ash, bur oak, birch, chokecherry, Mayday, Russian olive, sea buckthorn, hawthorn, spruce, pine, larch and a good supply of shrubs like dogwood, silver buffaloberry, lilac and caragana. There is also a limited supply of honeysuckle and hedge rose. Acreage holders are only eligible for the acute leaf willow, green ash, Manitoba maple, Russian olive, caragana and dogwood.

All next year's planting sites must be cultivated this summer and perennial weeds eliminated. Farmers and acreage holders are asked to limit their requests for trees to the actual number they will need. The application forms state the recommended spacing for each variety of tree and shrub, and additional information can be obtained from your district agriculturist to help you to design a good shelterbelt.

November 1, 1981, is the deadline for receipt of tree applications, but, because the supply of some varieties will run out long before that date, it is a good idea to get your requests as early as possible.

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July 20, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEE STING ALLERGY SURVEY AND SEMINARS

Dr. J. Day of the Kingston General Hospital's division of allergy and immunology in Kingston, Ontario, will be conducting a three-week survey of bee-keepers from August 4 to 26 to assess their susceptibility to bee sting allergies.

He and his crew of six will evaluate the allergy levels of beekeepers and their families to bee stings and examine their beekeeping operations with a view to preventing these problems.

Dr. Day also plans to hold three regional public seminars for people who are interested in bee sting allergies and associated research. The dates of these seminars, which will be held in the evening, will be announced later this summer.

Anyone who is interested in the survey or in attending the seminars should contact Roger Topping, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 1H9 (Telephone:427-0431).

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July 20, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NIGHT FEEDING MEANS EASIER CALVING

Trials in Scotland have shown that the management of spring-calving suckling cows is much easier if they are fed late at night.

The tests, which were carried out on four farms by the East of Scotland College of Agriculture, showed that when cows were fed at 22.00 hours, only one in five of their calves were born during the hours of darkness. But, when they were fed regularly at 09.00 hours more than twice as many of their calves were born between 22.00 hours and 06.00 hours.

Dr. Basil Lowman, the college's beef specialist, believes that changing to night feeding could help farmers to reduce early calf mortality. This is because the scale of losses at birth is often governed by how quickly the stockman discovers trouble and is able to take action. And, of course, if a veterinarian is required, he is more likely to be readily available during the day than at night.

Dr. Lowman believes the reason feeding time influences the time of calving stems from the fact that spring-calving cows tend to be slightly under-fed during the winter and are expected to live off their residual fat. Consequently, because they are always ready for their food, they continue eating as long as possible to prevent any of the other cows getting more than their share. Dr. Lowman says they become so preoccupied with feeding that they do not settle down to calve.

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July 20, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE CAUSE AND PREVENTION OF BIRCH DIEBACK

Have you heard of birch dieback? Do you know what it is? It is a condition that has been known for a long time to occur in natural stands of birch trees and one that is often responsible for serious problems in ornamental birches.

Trees that are suffering from this condition have yellow leaves, some of which fall off. This casting of leaves is particularly pronounced at the top of the tree, but it may also occur on some of the side branches. The foliage that remains is often sparse and yellow. It is not unusual for the tops of such trees to die within a year.

What causes birch dieback? The answer appears to be unsuitable growing conditions, especially lack of moisture. When growing in their natural state, birch trees are found in moist, shaded forest soil and along the banks of rivers, streams and lakes where moisture is plentiful. However, when used as ornamentals, they are often grown on lawns or in other sunny locations. Those growing on lawns are particularly susceptible to birch dieback because the grass absorbs most of the moisture before it reaches the roots of the trees.

What is the best way to prevent birch dieback? According to an Alberta Agriculture Fact Sheet entitled "Dieback and Yellowing of Leaves of Birch" (FS 275/637-3), the best way to avoid this condition in ornamental birch trees is to see that they have plenty of moisture. This means soaking them periodically during the hot summer months to a depth of at least eight inches and preferably to one and-a-half to two feet.

In late summer they should be given just enough water to keep the grass around them healthy and green. Reducing moisture at this time allows the trees to harden off before the onset of winter. Then, in October, when they have lost most of their leaves,

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The Cause And Prevention Of Birch Dieback (cont'd)

they should be thoroughly watered so that their roots have enough moisture during the winter. Birch trees that have been weakened by lack of moisture are more susceptible to winter injury.

Birches are sometimes damaged by the larvae of the bronze birch borer which mine the sapwood. This can cause large trees to die within three or four years. At one time it was thought that this insect was responsible for birch dieback, but it now seems that it may be of only secondary importance. The recommended way to keep birch trees free of bronze birch borers is to keep them healthy and vigorous.

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July 20, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS APPOINTED TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS MARKETING COUNCIL

Harvey Buckley of Cochrane is the new chairman of the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council. He replaces Clarke Ferries who is retiring.

The purpose of the council, which was formed in 1965, is to supervise the operation of producer marketing boards and commissions which have been established under The Agricultural Products Marketing Act. At the present time, there are six boards and three commissions. The commodities currently covered by these organizations are eggs, broiler chickens, turkeys, hogs, fresh vegetables and processed vegetables, cattle, potatoes and sheep and wool.

Thomas Sydness of Alberta Agriculture is the secretary of the Alberta Agricultural Marketing Council and the members are as follows:

Earl Masterson of Mayerthorpe

Richardson Page of Didsbury

George Visser of Namao

Eleanor Greenwood of Edmonton

Thomas Thurber of Winfield

There are also three members of Alberta Agriculture. They are:

Sidney Lore of Edmonton

Dennis Glover of Edmonton

Irene Leavitt of Edmonton

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July 20, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL MARKETING APPOINTED

Alberta Agriculture's acting deputy minister, H.M. Douglas, has announced the appointment of Barry Mehr to the position of assistant deputy minister of international marketing.

In his new position, Mr. Mehr will be responsible for Alberta Agriculture's support and assistance in the efforts being made by the province's agriculture and food products industry to market their products on the international market.

Mr. Mehr comes from Toronto, Ontario, and graduated from the University of Toronto in 1963 with a B.A., having specialized in food chemistry. Following graduation he worked for Swift Canadian Company Ltd. in Eastern Canada until 1973 when he went to work for Agriculture Canada. He joined Alberta Agriculture in 1977 as an international trade director for the United States, and held this position until his present appointment.

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July 20, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT APPOINTED TO DAIRY DIVISION

Fred R. Hutchings, dairy commissioner/director of Alberta Agriculture's dairy division, has announced the appointment of Brenda M. MacIntyre to the position of administrative assistant.

Mrs. MacIntyre was born and raised on a dairy farm in Chilliwack, B.C. and obtained her B.Ed. in 1976 from the University of B.C. After having taught high school for two years, she moved to Wetaskiwin and has been employed in Alberta Agriculture's dairy cattle improvement branch.

While working in various capacities, including summer work with the B.C. forest service, Mrs. MacIntyre has gained experience in personnel work, record management, cash flow and other aspects of administrative work.

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July 20, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAKING PICKLES AND RELISHES AT HOME

A new booklet entitled "Making Pickles and Relishes at Home" gives specific directions on selecting and preparing pickling ingredients and on processing pickles and relishes.

Although today's food markets offer a wide variety of pickles and relishes, many people prefer to make their own when their garden vegetables and fresh fruits are in abundance and at their best.

"Making Pickles and Relishes at Home" contains basic recipes for such old-time favorites as pickled peaches, piccalilli and sauerkraut. It also contains recipes for the newer fresh-pack or quick process dills, sweet gherkins, crosscut pickle slices and dilled green beans. The spices in these basic recipes can be either increased or decreased according to personal taste.

Pickled products are classified on the basis of the ingredients used and the method of processing. There are four main categories: brined pickles, fresh-pack pickles, fruit pickles and relishes.

Brined pickles, also called fermented pickles, have to go through a curing process for about three weeks. Dilled cucumbers and sauerkraut belong to this group.

Fresh-pack or quick-process pickles, which include crosscut cucumber slices and whole cucumber dills, sweet gherkins and dilled green beans, are soaked in brine for several hours or overnight.

Fruit pickles are usually prepared from whole fruit and simmered in spicy, sweet-sour syrup.

Relishes are prepared from fruit and vegetables which have been chopped, seasoned and cooked to the desired consistency.

- (cont'd) -

Making Pickles And Relishes At Home (cont'd)

In addition to information on the characteristics of the four main categories of pickles, "Making Pickles and Relishes at Home" discusses the ingredients and equipment that are needed for successful pickling, recommended procedures, common causes of poor-quality pickles and common causes of spoilage in sauerkraut. It also contains a large number of pickle and relish recipes.

"Making Pickles and Relishes at Home (Homedex 1153) is published and distributed by Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, and can be obtained from district home economists or the Print Media Branch, 1B, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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AGRI·NEWS

July 27, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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July 27, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RABIES DIAGNOSED IN A DAY IN SOUTHERN ALBERTA

To avoid the possibility of human exposure to rabies, pet owners in southern Alberta are urged to have their dogs and cats vaccinated as soon as they are old enough.

The director of Alberta Agriculture's health of animals division, Dr. R.G. Christian, reports that rabies has been diagnosed in a puppy, too young to be vaccinated, in the County of Warner, located southeast of Lethbridge. He says this is the first case of rabies to be diagnosed in a dog in Alberta since 1974, and he believes the puppy probably contracted the disease from an infected skunk.

Since the puppy had been playing with a number of children before it was diagnosed as rabid, the children will all have to undergo a series of vaccinations to prevent their contracting the disease. According to Dr. Christian, the result is nearly always fatal if rabies symptoms occur in a human being.

Rabies has been diagnosed in two bats this year — one in Lethbridge in June and one near Eckville in July — and in 20 skunks in southern Alberta. Since the number of positive skunks is less than last year, Dr. Christian is hopeful that the Population Reduction Program is working.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADA OIL SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM

Did you know that in Alberta the Canada Oil Substitution Program (COSP) will provide a maximum grant of $800 to home owners who switch from oil to natural gas, propane (if natural gas is not available), wood or solar heating?

COSP provides grants that will cover one half of the cost of materials and labor for the conversion of oil space and water heating systems up to a maximum of $800. These grants are available to home owners who converted the heating system in their principal residence after October 28, 1980.

Eligible costs include those involved in removing oil-fired equipment, replacing a combustion chamber, changing out-duct work, installing a thermostat, electrical controls, a boiler, a hot water tank, mechanical ventilation equipment, humidification equipment and a new furnace.

In the case of wood-burning systems, the eligible equipment includes air-tight stoves, wood furnaces and boilers and combination furnaces that run on wood and oil.

Solar heating systems must be capable of supplying at least a third of the heat previously provided by oil to be eligible for a grant, and at least one member of the installation team must have completed a Canadian Solar Industries Association course on the installation of active solar equipment. Active and thermo-syphoning solar heating systems, including those used for space heating, domestic water heating and swimming pool heating, are eligible for a grant, but unfortunately, passive solar systems are not eligible.

Grant application forms for conversion from oil to natural gas should be available from all utility companies. People planning to convert to other sources of heat should contact the Federal Energy Mines and Resources Office, 22 Sir Winston Churchill Avenue, 200 Grandin Park Centre, St. Albert, Alberta, T8N 1B4 (Telephone:459-6887 or Toll Free Number 1-800-22-6477).

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July 27, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER FIELD DAY

The selection and maintenance of woody ornamentals will be featured at the 19th annual Alberta Horticultural Research Center field day on August 28. A miniature garden centre will be set up to display the many species of trees and shrubs that are suitable for gardens in Alberta.

The growing and use of herbs and spices will be another highlight and there will be numerous other displays and demonstrations. For example, a pruning clinic will be used to demonstrate pruning methods for trees and shrubs, and a plant pest clinic will provide information on plant disease and insect problems. There will also be a demonstration of flower arranging.

In addition to displays and demonstrations, tours of fruit, vegetable, greenhouse and special crops research plots will be arranged.

Fresh corn-on-the-cob will be served to all visitors and refreshments will be available throughout the day. Those staying all day are asked to bring their own picnic lunch.

The Alberta Horticultural Research Center is located 5 km east of Brooks on Highway No.1, and the field day will start at 9 a.m. and run until 4 p.m.

For more information telephone 362-3391 in Brooks.

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July 27, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA YOUNG FARMERS ASSOCIATION

Have you heard about the Young Farmers' Association? It provides opportunities for young people in rural Alberta between the ages of 16 and 30 — married or single — to develop to their potential, to better their community, to explore individual talents and to meet new friends. You do not have to be a farmer or even the son or daughter of a farmer to participate.

Whatever the activities, they are planned with your interests in mind. They could include dances, sports events, camping weekends, farm tours for handicapped children, communication and leadership training, soils and crop management tours, tractor safety rodeos, "country cook" competitions or car rallies.

If you are a young farmer the business and educational aspects of the club as well as the social part of the club will provide a worthwhile learning experience.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in participating in some young farmer activities, please give your name and address to your local district agriculturist or district home economist.

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July 27, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAKING THE BEST USE OF YOUR FREEZER

Although freezing uses a considerable amount of energy because of the freezer's continual need for electricity, it is still the most popular method of preserving food.

Did you know that some types of freezers use more energy than others? If you want to conserve energy choose a manual defrosting, chest-type freezer rather than a frost-free upright freezer. To compare individual models in the different types, check the energy guide label which you will find attached to each model. It will tell you how much energy the unit uses in a month. The lower the number, the more energy-efficient the freezer will be.

To make the best use of your freezer, Diane MacKay, Alberta Agriculture's district home economist at Hanna, recommends following the manufacturer's care and use directions and the energy saving suggestions listed below.

- Freeze no more than 1 to 1.5 kg of fresh food per 27 L of freezer space at a time. The larger the added load, the longer the freezer unit will run.
- Fill the freezer to capacity. Once the food is frozen, the freezer will use the same amount of electricity, regardless of how full it is.
- Maintain the temperature -18° C. The storage life of the food will decrease at a higher temperature and more energy will be used at a lower temperature.
- No matter what method of food preservation you use, remember to organize your equipment ahead of time and to work quickly.

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July 27, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE LATEST WORD ON HOME CANNING METHODS

There are as many methods of home canning as there are cooking appliances, but not all produce successful or safe results.

The main purpose of canning is to prevent the growth of organisms that cause spoilage (yeasts, molds and bacteria) and to kill plant enzymes that affect the color, flavor and texture of food. This is done in canning by obtaining the correct combination of heat and acidity.

Alberta Agriculture's district home economist at Hanna, Diane MacKay, says the less acid there is in a food product, the more heat will be needed to kill the spoilage-causing organisms and the enzymes. As a general rule, all vegetables, meat, poultry, seafood, soups and stews are low acid foods, and need a temperature of 125° C. Because the temperature of a boiling water bath does not go higher than 100° C, the only way to achieve the required heat is to use a pressure canner.

Since fruits have a fairly high acid level 100°C is hot enough to kill the dangerous micro-organisms and enzymes. This means that they can be processed in a boiling water bath.

. Open kettle canning, which involves filling hot jars to the brim with boiling hot , fully cooked food and screwing on the lids, is safe only for jellies where the high amount of sugar acts as a preservative. It is not recommended for low acid foods because the food does not reach 125° C, and it is not recommended for high acid food because it is possible for organisms to penetrate the improperly sealed jars.

. Oven canning is not recommended. With this method of canning, containers which have been filled and capped are processed in a moderate oven. It is not considered safe because the dry heat does not penetrate enough to kill the micro-organisms and because oven thermostats are not always accurate. Also, the jars can explode when the oven door is opened.

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The Latest Word On Home Canning Methods (cont'd)

• Microwave canning is out because all the jars are not heated evenly; metal lids cannot be used in this type of oven and containers with vacuum seals will explode.

• Dishwasher canning is not safe because there is not control over the temperature or processing time.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRUIT LEATHERS

by Debbie Brekke
District Home Economist, Stettler

Drying is an old method of preserving food that is becoming popular once again. Fruit leather is just one way of drying, and it is fun! The product is a chewy, pliable dried fruit leather that is really great as a snack. Rhubarb, raspberries, strawberries, or any other fruit can be used and even combined with these to make a tangy snack.

Here is how easy fruit leather is to make. Allow about 2 cups of cooked or blended fruit and sugar to taste for each batch. However, it is not usually necessary to add any sugar unless the fruit is really tart. The taste and the sweetness become concentrated as the fruit dries.

Place the fruit in a blender until it is smooth and about the consistency of fine applesauce. You may need to add water or juice if it is too stiff. If it is really runny, strain some of the juice off.

Line a jelly roll pan or a cookie sheet with plastic wrap or butter it well. Spread the fruit evenly to between 1/8 to 1/4 inch of thickness. Set your oven at its lowest setting or about 140° F and place the pan in the oven (near the top) for several hours.

The drying time will vary with the fruit being dried, but it will probably take five to six hours. Cool the fruit and roll it up in saran paper for storing. Cut pieces off with a pair of scissors to serve as a snack.

Frozen or canned fruit is just as good as fresh fruit for making leathers. Try a combination like rhubarb and raspberry -- it is good!

Ask your district home economist for "Drying Fruits and Vegetables" for more information on this topic.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

July 27, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSOCIATE TRADE DIRECTORS APPOINTED

Barry D. Mehr, Alberta Agriculture's assistant deputy minister of international marketing, has announced the appointments of two associate trade directors. They are David Rous and John Latham.

David Rous

Mr. Rous will identify, evaluate, document and follow up on marketing opportunities in the United States, the Pacific Rim and southeast Asia in the areas of agricultural commodities, processed products and services that supplement the activities of the international trade directors.

Mr. Rous was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and obtained his B.Sc. from the University of Manitoba in 1958. After graduating he went to work for Swift Canadian in Winnipeg where he performed bacteriological and chemical tests on their products. In 1965 he moved to Edmonton and held the position of co-ordinator for the production and sale of meat products. He joined Alberta Agriculture's international marketing sector in 1973. Here he was responsible for the supply of meat, meat products and swine breeding stock for export, and he held that position until his present appointment.

John Latham

Mr. Latham will also identify, evaluate, document and follow up on marketing opportunities for agricultural commodities, processed products and services that supplement the activities of international trade directors, but his areas of responsibility will be Europe, South America and the Middle East.

- (cont'd) -

Associate Trade Directors Appointed (cont'd)

Mr. Latham comes from Ontario and graduated in 1967 from Queens University, Kingston, with a B.Sc. (chemistry and geology). He spent one year following graduation working as a process development metallurgist for Crucible Steel Company in Syracuse, New York. From 1968 to 1970 he was a management trainee in quality control with Joseph E. Seagram and Sons in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A. From 1971 until 1979 he worked for the federal Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Here he held the positions of diplomat, consul and trade commissioner in international marketing, industrial development and trade policy. Between 1971 and 1978 he was posted to West Africa, South America and the United States. From 1978 to 1979 he was regional director general in St. John's, Newfoundland, and from 1979 until his present appointment he has been self-employed as a farmer.

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July 27, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO SENIOR MARKETING OFFICERS APPOINTED

The director of Alberta Agriculture's marketing sector, Wilf Bowns, has announced the appointments of Garry Benoit and Douglas Hill to the position of senior marketing officers.

Garry Benoit

Mr. Benoit will be located in Edmonton and will be responsible for meat, meat products and swine. He was raised on a mixed farm in the Lloydminster area and attended the University of Alberta. He graduated with a B.Sc. (agricultural economics) in 1967, and his studies covered general and international economics, marketing and rural sociology.

Following graduation he worked for Agriculture Canada until 1972 when he became agricultural attaché with the trade commissioner service at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. In 1976 he was employed by the marketing services division of Agriculture Canada's production and marketing branch in Ottawa. The following year he was appointed executive assistant to Agriculture Canada's assistant deputy minister of food production and marketing. He spent from 1978 until his present appointment with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association in Ottawa.

Douglas Hill

Mr. Hill will also be located in Edmonton and will be responsible for horticultural crops, peat moss, horses, poultry, sheep, goats and wild animals.

He comes from Calgary and graduated in 1955 from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture), having majored in animal husbandry. He has two years of university towards a master's degree.

- (cont'd) -

Two Senior Marketing Officers Appointed (cont'd)

Mr. Hill worked for the Shur Gain Division of Canada Packers as a salesman and as a sales supervisor from 1957 to 1962 when he joined Alberta Agriculture. He worked in marketing and was supervisor of microbiology and central testing. From 1974 until last spring, he worked in marketing services of the processing development branch.

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AGRI-NEWS

August 3, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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August 3, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHEAT OUTLOOK

Hard red spring wheat prices are expected to make a modest seasonal recovery, from their June 1981 lows. Durum prices could remain below those of red spring wheat during the next few months if the North American durum crop turns out as currently projected.

The Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) initial payment for the 1981-82 crop year has been set at $174.50 per tonne for No.1 CWRS 13.5 per cent basis Thunder Bay or Vancouver which represent a drop of $22 per tonne compared with 1980-81. The initial payment for No.1 CWRS 13.5 per cent basis Edmonton or Calgary will be approximately $164 per tonne.

CWB's initial payment for No.1 Amber durum basis Thunder Bay or Vancouver has been set at $174.50 per tonne, down $64.34 per tonne compared with the 1980-81 level. The sharper decline in the initial payment for durum compared with red spring wheats is mainly due to the expected record North American crop, which has already resulted in the CWB asking price for No.1 Amber durum being offered at a discount to No.1 CWRS 13.5 per cent at both Thunder Bay and Vancouver.

Statistics Canada's June acreage survey indicates that Canadian farmers have planted a near record 30.12 million acres of wheat this year. This is 10 per cent above the 1980 level and is only surpassed by the large 1967 acreage. The Canadian durum acreage is estimated to be a record 3.75 million acres or 21 per cent above the 1980 acreage.

Alberta's 1981 wheat acreage is estimated at 6.5 million acres or 10.2 per cent above the 1980 acreage and the largest since 1966. Alberta's durum acreage is estimated to be 450,000 acres or 28.5 per cent above the 1980 acreage and the largest since 1970.

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Wheat Outlook (cont'd)

Les Lyster, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, reports that, based on current weather conditions, it appears that Canadian wheat yields will be above average, and that this year's wheat crop could reach a record 23.8 million tonnes. This would be marginally above the previous record crop which was harvested in 1976. A record or near record durum crop is also expected. Mr. Lyster says "Given the draw down in the beginning stocks, total Canadian wheat supplies for the 1981-82 crop year are expected to exceed the 1980-81 level by only above 2 million tonnes."

Domestic wheat usage during the 1981-82 crop year is expected to be similar to the current level. However, Canadian wheat exports could be slightly below the near record 1980-81 level because this country is expected to face stiff competition in international markets during the coming year, especially from the United States. Mr. Lyster thinks that Canadian carryover stocks next summer could be about 2 million tonnes higher than they are at present, but he does not believe that this level will be burdensome by historical Canadian standards.

** Because of the changing nature of factors affecting this outlook, anyone who wishes to make published reference to its contents, in whole or in part, after August 31, 1981, is requested to consult Mr. Lyster.*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BARLEY OUTLOOK

Non-board barley prices during the next few months will depend upon the final outcome of the Canadian barley crop, the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) quota levels, the volume of exports and the performance of the American corn market. However, in view of the lower CWB initial barley payment, and the increase in Canadian feed grain supplies, non-board barley prices are expected to average below the 1980-81 level during the present crop year. Non-board elevator prices are expected to be mainly in the $110 - $120 per tonne range during the last half of 1981.

The 1981-82 CWB initial payment for No.1 feed barley, basis Thunder Bay or Vancouver, has been set at $124 per tonne, down $6.90 per tonne from the last crop year. The CWB initial payment for No.1 feed barley, basis Edmonton or Calgary, will be approximately $112 per tonne.

According to Les Lyster of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, the 1981 Canadian barley acreage is the second largest on record, being surpassed only by the 1971 acreage. Assuming the usual amount of barley will be harvested for forage, the acreage harvested for grain will be about 13.25 million acres. Alberta's barley acreage harvested for grain will be approximately 6.2 million acres.

Part of the northern Prairie barley area has suffered from drought, but these losses have been offset by good to excellent crops elsewhere. If, as expected Prairie yields are somewhat above average, Canada's 1981 barley crop will be a record 13.5 million tonnes or 22 per cent larger than the 1980 crop. Assuming this is the case, total 1981-82 supplies will be approximately 16 million tonnes or 3 million tonnes above the 1980-81 level.

Mr. Lyster expects the domestic use of barley to increase during the present crop year. He says shipments to Eastern Canada are expected to be above those of 1980-81.

- (cont'd) -

Barley Outlook (cont'd)

Current projections for barley supplies and domestic usage indicate that barley exports of around 6.5 million tonnes will be required during the present crop year to prevent a buildup in carryover stocks that are above those of 1980-81. Consequently, Mr. Lyster says that an extremely aggressive barley export program will be required. He points out that recent Soviet crop problems, combined with the apparent desire of that country to acquire non-U.S. grain supplies, should result in a larger tonnage of Canadian barley being shipped to the U.S.S.R. He reports that Canada has already committed 910,000 tonnes of barley for shipment to the Soviet Union during the August to October period of this year. Hence, barley exports are expected to be around 4.8 million tonnes, which is well above those of the last crop year. Such a level would result in somewhat burdensome carryover of about 4.4 million tonnes at the end of the present crop year. Mr. Lyster says the possibility of labor difficulties in the grain industry is of concern from the point of view of export levels during the coming year.

Current conditions in the United States indicate that corn supplies appear to be adequate to meet requirements. Mr. Lyster thinks the corn market will probably drift lower between now and late 1981 unless adverse weather results in corn supplies being lower than presently expected.

* *Because of the changing nature of factors affecting this outlook, anyone who wishes to make published reference to its contents, in whole or in part, after August 31,1981, is requested to consult Mr. Lyster.*

August 3, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADC FIRST QUARTER LENDING ACTIVITY

H.B. McEwen, chairman of the board of the Agricultural Development Corporation has recently announced the corporation's lending results for the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

Following a record-breaking year in fiscal 1980-81, when the corporation's direct lending activity was triple that of the previous year, the first quarter of this fiscal year indicates further increases.

During this period 508 direct farm loans were approved, totalling $74 million. This compares with 298 loans for $38 million in the same quarter of last year. Of the current quarter's total, 437 loans, representing $66 million, were made to beginning farmers, compared with 194 loans and $27 million in the comparable quarter last year.

Loans made to agribusinesses during the first quarter amounted to $4 million, compared with just over $1 million in the same quarter last year. Mr. McEwen said that the corporation expects to become much more active in its agribusiness lending activities in the future.

Under the Alberta Farm Development Loan Program, 1692 loans worth $22 million were guaranteed by the corporation. These figures compare favorably with 1531 loans for $19 million made in the first quarter of the last fiscal year.

Mr. McEwen also paid tribute to the corporation's staff, both in the field and in head office, for their efforts involved in keeping up with the greatly increased workload associated with the unprecedented volume of loans and related administrative work. He added that additional loans officers are currently being recruited, along with additional staff for the Camrose head office.

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August 3, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLACKBIRD DAMAGE SURVEY

Alberta's Problem Wildlife Committee and the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation (AHCIC) are carrying out a province-wide survey this summer to determine the severity, extent and nature of the damage caused by black birds to field crops.

Farmers who have suffered damage from these birds to their crops are asked to contact their local AHCIC office or adjuster so that a good representative sampling of damage can be compiled. There is no charge for the investigation.

At the present time there is no compensation in Alberta for damage caused by blackbirds and there is no payment for losses through the crop insurance or wildlife damage programs.

Cliff Barrett, supervisor of animal pest control with Alberta Agriculture, says blackbird damage has been widespread, but very variable over the years. Some farmers have reported heavy damage to oats, barley, wheat, corn and sunflowers, while others have reported only scattered feeding.

You can obtain further information on the survey and information on controlling blackbirds from your district agriculturist, agricultural fieldman, fish and wildlife officer or from the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation in Lacombe (Telephone: 782-4661) or Alberta Agriculture's Crop Protection Branch in Edmonton (Telephone: 427-5370).

There is also a publication that deals with the control of blackbirds. It is an Agriculture Canada publication entitled "Blackbirds and the Protection of Field Crops" Agdex 685 and it can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TIPS ON BUYING TOPSOIL

If you are planning to buy topsoil for landscaping your garden, be sure to buy it from a reputable firm, and you would be wise to inspect the field where the soil is being loaded.

One of the main reasons an on-site inspection of the field where the topsoil is being loaded is recommended is to determine the types of weeds that are present. Often the fields from which topsoil is taken have been abandoned or poorly managed for a number of years with the result that they are badly infested with weeds. Perennial grasses like quackgrass pose much more of a problem in a newly established lawn that annual grasses and broad-leaved weeds.

Texture is also important, and again the best way to determine this is in the field. A medium textured soil or loam which contains approximately equal parts of sand, silt and clay is the most desirable for gardening and landscaping purposes. The heavy textured soils which contain a lot of clay are hard to work and light textured soils which contain a lot of sand have a low moisture holding capacity. Both are less desirable than a good loam.

You can get a rough estimate of soil texture by taking a small amount of soil in your hand, wetting it and rubbing it between your thumb and forefinger. If it is good loam it should feel gritty, (sand particles) soapy or silky (intermediate-sized silt particles) and sticky (fine clay particles). A heavy clay soil feels very sticky and has no grittiness.

A black soil has a high organic matter content, while a light grey color indicates a low organic content.

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Tips On Buying Top Soil (cont'd)

It is also a good idea to check for salt crusting in the field before purchasing top-soil. White crystals on the surface of dry soil could indicate the presence of salts which may be harmful to plants. An excessive level of salts in a recently delivered load of topsoil will not be visible until the soil has had time to dry out.

In summary then, the best topsoil for landscaping and general garden use is free of weeds, free of salts and a rich black color.

You can obtain a copy of a leaflet entitled "Purchasing Topsoil" (FS 525-1) from your district agriculturist or the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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CORRECTION

The article entitled "Alberta Young Farmers Association", which appeared in the July 27 issue of "Agri-News", was printed in error and should not be used.

Apparently, the young farmers association referred to in the article is a pilot project that is being carried out only in the County of Minburn. It does not apply anywhere else in the province.

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August 3, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA PROVIDES ONTARIO WITH WEED ALERT INFORMATION

Ontario is apparently having great success with its Weed Alert Program which it adopted from Alberta.

Late in 1979 Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch was asked to provide the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food with detailed information on the Alberta Weed Alert Program to help them to set up a similar system.

Farmers in Ontario are now being asked to report new or unusual weeds, weeds that appear to be resistant to, or appear to be becoming resistant to herbicides, and weeds that are generally difficult to control.

During its first year of operation, about 650 submissions were handled under the Ontario program, which received a great deal of publicity when an unusual weed turned up in a number of alfalfa fields. The weed was identified as poison hemlock and was traced to a specific seedlot. All the fields that had been sown from that particular seedlot were then rogued to remove the weed before it could become established and spread to other fields.

Arnold Stearman of Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch says the early identification and control of new weeds is essential if major weed problems are to be avoided.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MANITOBA WEED SUPERVISORS DELIVER

The 37 weed supervisors who attended the recent Agricultural service board tour in Bonnyville brought a trophy with them which they presented to Vern Arnold, president of the Alberta Fieldmen's Association.

Why did they present Mr. Arnold with a trophy? Because the Manitoba weed supervisors issued a challege to the Alberta fieldmen at the beginning of the promotion for Weeds 81, Alberta's home study weed course, and Manitoba's home study weed course. The Manitobans said that the group that got the lowest number of registrants for their course must deliver a suitably engraved trophy to the winner. Alberta was the winner with just over 5,000 registrants.

During the presentation ceremony at the banquet, all the Alberta fieldmen and assistants who were present received hats which made them honorary Manitoba weed supervisors. In return, each Manitoba weed supervisor was presented with a crest and pin which indicated that he was an honorary member of the Alberta Fieldmen's Association and an honorary citizens of Alberta!

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Two 4-H programs, "Express-ions" and "Horse Sense", will have project activities and competitions for 325 4-H members and leaders on August 10 - 12 at Olds College, Olds, Alberta.

The "Express-ions" program will consist of special educational seminars designed for members and leaders of such clubs as clothing, small engine, crafts and photography.

The "Horse Sense" program is for light horse clubs across the province and is intended to increase their members' knowledge of judging, demonstrating and project skills. Both programs will be in progress at the same time.

Leaders who attend will help in a variety of ways. Some will judge projects, while others will act as resource people. Even most of the planned recreational activities will be under the direction of 4-H leaders.

Both programs promise to meet the educational needs of the young 4-H'er and the 4-H leader. They will give both groups an opportunity to become involved in activities which may not be available in their local communities.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOOD PRESERVATION PAMPHLETS

Are you planning to can vegetables and fruit this summer or to make jam, jellies and pickles?

Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch has compiled a number of publications that give complete information on these and other food preservation subjects.

Following is a list of them:

- Garden Carrots (Homedex No.1131-11)
- Garden Tomatoes (Homedex No.1131-15)
- Canning Canadian Fruits and Vegetables (Homedex No.1151)
- Jams, Jellies and Pickles (Homedex No.1152)
- Smoking Foods at Home (Homedex No.1154-2)
- Control of Condensation In Fruit & Vegetable Storage (FS732-5)
- Home Storage Room For Fruits & Vegetables (FS250/60)
- Food Preservation — A Problem Solving Guide (Homedex No.1150-1)

There are many cookbooks that have useful information on food preservation. One that is recommended by the home economists as an excellent, very comprehensive book on this subject is "Putting Foods By" by Hertzberg, Vaughan and Greene. It is published by the Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vermont, U.S.A., and covers such topics as canning, freezing, drying, root-cellar storage, curing, rendering lard, making soap, making sausages and water-glassing eggs.

Copies of the Alberta Agriculture publications can be obtained from any district home economist's office or from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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August 3, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STRATHMORE HOLDS NO-TILL TOUR

The Alberta No-Till Farmer's Association will be holding a tour in the Strathmore area on August 11.

Participants will see no-till and minimum-till crops and be able to examine the new machinery that is being used in no-till farming. There will also be presentations on the fertility aspects of this type of farming and on the new herbicides that are proposed for use under these conditions.

Registration will commence at 9 a.m. at the Wheatland County Provincial Building in Strathmore.

You can obtain more details on the tour by telephoning the Alberta No-till Farmer's Association's co-ordinator, Larry Dumaine, at 934-3355.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PULSE GROWERS TOUR

The Pulse Growers Association of Alberta will be holding its annual tour in the Bow Island area on August 13.

Those who take part will see fields of dry bean, pea and lentil crops that have been treated with various fertilizers, herbicides or fungicides.

The tour will also cover seeders and the proper inoculation of seed.

Anyone who would like to participate in the tour should be at the Agriculture Center in Lethbridge at 8 a.m. or at the Bow Island district agriculturist office at 9 a.m. on August 13.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF RURAL SERVICES APPOINTED

J. Dave Jantzie, director of Alberta Agriculture's engineering and rural services division, has announced the appointment of Patricia J. Sheehan to the position of associate director of rural services.

She will be responsible for administering and co-ordinating rural services programs in the province that lie within the jurisdiction of agriculture service boards, agricultural development committees and agricultural societies.

Mrs. Sheehan is a graduate of the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (home economics). She has experience as a district home economist, as a specialist in rural and leadership development and as head of the community service branch, which administers the agricultural societies programs.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANT PATHOLOGY SUPERVISOR APPOINTED

The head of Alberta Agriculture's crop protection and pest control branch, J.B. Gurba, has announced the appointment of Dr. Ieuan Evans to the position of supervisor of plant pathology. He succeeds Dr. Jack Horricks who retired recently.

In his new position, Dr. Evans will serve as provincial plant pathologist and will be responsible for all aspects of plant disease control. His overall objective will be to reduce crop damage and losses that result from plant diseases by developing, promoting and co-ordinating plant disease control methods and programs. His responsibilities will include field surveys for plant diseases and crop damage, the testing of control methods in the field, the dissemination of extension information and co-operative programs with universities, federal research stations and municipalities.

Dr. Evans was born and raised in Wales. He graduated from the University of Wales with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1962 and an honors degree in agricultural biology in 1963. He later attended the University of Florida, graduating in 1969 with a Ph.D. in botany, biochemistry and plant pathology.

From 1963 to 1969 Dr. Evans worked part-time with the crop service department of the University of Florida on crop diseases in that state. He then moved to Guelph, Ontario, where he was assistant professor of plant pathology at the University of Guelph. Here he lectured in plant pathology, diagnosed plant diseases and carried out applied and basic research on field crop diseases.

Dr. Evans came to Alberta in 1974 and joined Alberta Agriculture. He was employed at the plant industry laboratory in Edmonton where he diagnosed crop disease problems, carried out applied laboratory and field research and extension work. In 1979 the laboratory

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Plant Pathology Supervisor Appointed (cont'd)

was transferred from Alberta Agriculture to Alberta Environment and was moved the following year to the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville. Dr. Evans became head of the plant pathology section in 1980 and held that position until his present appointment.

He is active in many sports but his main interest is rugby. He has held various executive positions in that sport and has been a national rugby referee.

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AGRI-NEWS

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CANADIANA
AUG 31 1981

August 10, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA-BRED BULL MAKES HISTORY

An Alberta-bred polled Hereford bull has made showing history in Britain by capturing the Triple Crown.

He is Remitall Monarch, bred and raised by Louis and Jean Latimer of the Remitall Cattle Company in Olds, Alberta. He has won the supreme championships at the Royal Highland Show in Scotland, the Royal Show in England and the Royal Welsh Show in Wales, and, at 16 months of age, he is the youngest animal in history and the first Canadian-bred polled Hereford to have captured the prestigious title of "Bull of the Year" in Britain.

This fantastic animal was purchased, along with a number of others, by Harry and Micheal Coates of Cosby, Leicestershire, England, during a visit to Canada. Both Mr. Coates and his son, Michael, are planning to return to Alberta later this year, and a number of other United Kingdom cattlemen have expressed a keen interest in Alberta's large-framed cattle now that the British have eased their health regulations.

Mr. and Mrs. Latimer were in Britain during the Royal Highland Show and the Royal Show and were frequent visitors to the Alberta government's area of the Canada West Booth at Kenilworth. Alberta's display was manned by John and Shirley Hay of Innisfail; Alton and Eleanor Parker of Three Hills, representing the Alberta Hereford Association; Frank Slezina of Southolm Farms, Coaldale, representing the Alberta Aberdeen Angus Association; and Vic Lund, international sales manager for Universal Semen of Cardston.

John Hay, who is secretary of the Alberta Hereford Association, and his wife have enjoyed a long association with the British cattle market, despite temporary setbacks, and they were responsible for shipping animals to the U.K., including Remitall Monarch. Mr. Hay anticipates that a second planeload of cattle will be leaving for the United Kingdom at the beginning of next year.

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FORAGE SEED SITUATION

Export markets, which take a considerable portion of Canada's forage seed supplies, were disappointing for all forage seeds during the 1980-81 crop year, except for creeping red fescue.

While exports of clover mixes almost tripled in volume up to June 1 of this year, the combined shipments of red single-cut alsike and sweet clover were well below the 1979-80 level. The decrease in sweet clover shipments was not unexpected in view of the generally tight supply and higher prices. Timothy seed exports were also disappointing in the past year with the European demand down for both OECD multiplication and the Canadian variety Climax. Markets outside the United States are expected to be difficult to penetrate in the present crop year because of the significant appreciation in the Canadian dollar against most other currencies.

Bob Prather, one of Alberta Agriculture's market analysts, says fescue supplies will be limited again in the current crop year, and that this situation will result in a continuation of strong producer prices.

However, timothy seed prices are expected to decline in the coming year as Manitoba's production recovers and because of limited export prospects. Although clover seed production is expected to be low again this year, producer prices are not expected to improve much.

Producer prices for alsike clover could improve, but price prospects for red clover are not bright because of the current high supply situation. Alfalfa seed prices will be mainly determined by the availability and prices of American supplies. Canadian alfalfa seed production could possibly exceed 2 million kg this year.

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Forage Seed Situation (cont'd)

Prospects for bromegrass producer prices are good for the current crop year, providing that demand continues at its current level. However, the size of the American crop and bromegrass prices in that country will be an important factor.

**Because of the changing nature of factors affecting this report, anyone who wishes to make published reference to its contents, in whole or in part, after August 31, 1981 is requested to consult Mr. Bob Prather.*

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August 10, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROCESSED ALFALFA SITUATION

Although both domestic and export prices for alfalfa products have been above those recorded in the 1980-81 crop year, they could go even higher if there is a further decline in production prospects and/or a significant recovery in the demand for feed. Production prospects are not favorable.

Bob Prather of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch says a combination of severe winterkill, winter injury and extremely dry conditions in the northeastern part of the province and the Peace River region will limit the 1981-82 output to a maximum of from 120,000 to 140,000 tonnes. Last year's production was 139,000 tonnes which was the lowest it has been since 1976-77.

According to Mr. Prather, dehy pellet production in Alberta during the current crop year is not expected to exceed 75,000 tonnes, which would be 17 per cent lower than that produced in 1980-81 and 30 per cent lower than in 1978-79 and 1979-80, both of which were high production years. Mr. Prather says first cut yields in northern Alberta have been below normal, and that more than 13,000 acres, or 20 per cent of the initial alfalfa acreage, have had to be plowed under. A good second cut will be necessary to even achieve 75,000 tonnes this year, and if conditions do not improve considerably, this figure could end up to be as low as 65,000 tonnes. Also, loss of quality, which in turn will have a serious negative effect on plant returns, will result from the poor yields and winter injury. Mr. Prather believes that good quality dehy alfalfa will be at a premium in the province during the 1981-82 crop year.

Sun cured production may slightly exceed last year's 25,000 tonnes, and alfalfa cube production will range between 20,000 and 40,000 tonnes, depending upon how much is processed in southern Alberta's new plant.

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Processed Alfalfa Situation (cont'd)

Price prospects for both dehy and sun-cured pellets are promising Mr. Prather says, but he points out that freight and handling charges alone have increased by more than $4 per tonne since this time last year, and that production costs are also much higher. On the positive side, the limited availability of alfalfa products for the export market is expected to result in a repeat of 1980-81 when prices peaked during the winter at a high of $160 per tonne ex spout Vancouver. Although domestic markets are limited in scope, they provide a much better return to alfalfa processing plants. Mr. Prather says that prices there have tended to move in line with local barley prices, and that the increasing interest in dehy alfalfa as a replacement for canola and soybean meal in dairy rations could further enhance the volume of domestic sales in the current crop year.

The alfalfa cube market is soft at the present time and Japanese commitments to date are minimal. The latter is a critical factor in the sale of cubes this year.

**Because of the changing nature of factors affecting this report, anyone who wishes to make published reference to its contents, in whole or in part, after August 31, 1981, is requested to consult Mr. Bob Prather.*

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August 10, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPECIAL CROPS OUTLOOK

Western Canada's acreage seeded to special crops is around 1.2 million acres this year.

Bob Prather, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, says improved delivery quota prospects and relatively favorable grain prices have prevented an acreage expansion of special crops similar to that experienced last year. However, the special crops acreage in Western Canada remains well above the historical level.

Mr. Prather points out that the situation differs from one province to another and among the various crops. Preliminary estimates suggest a significant acreage decline for faba-beans, sunflowers and mustard seed, while the acreage seeded to field peas, field beans and especially grain corn is considerably above that of 1980.

In Alberta the number of acres seeded to special crops is said to be 83,000 which represents a 14 per cent drop compared with 1980. A decline of 27 per cent to 273,000 acres is indicated for Saskatchewan. Of the Western provinces, only Manitoba growers have indicated an increase in their special crop acreage, 110,000 acres, 78 per cent of which represents an increase in grain corn. The overall acreage increase in Manitoba is projected to be 9 per cent.

Grain Corn

The grain corn acreage in Alberta has increased much less than had been anticipated, and is expected to be around 6,000 acres. The Alberta corn market, which has been mainly supplied by American corn in the past, will have some strong competition this year from the large Manitoba crop.

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Special Crops Outlook (cont'd)

Lentils

Production prospects for lentils in Western Canada are much better than they were in 1980, but prices are expected to be lower than those of last year because of a large North American carryover. This potential supply situation has limited 1981 Western Canadian producer price prospects to between $440 and $530 per tonne with only a limited opportunity for further increases.

Field Beans

Price prospects for the 1981 field bean crop are good and supplies are relatively tight. Short crops in the Southern Hemisphere and Mexico have pushed the demand for U.S. and Canadian supplies well above their previous level. The demand is particularly strong for Pinto, Great Northern and White pea beans. Although recent market developments suggest potential Alberta prices in excess of $680 per tonne for the 1981 crop, the size of this year's U.S. crop and uncertainty over Mexican purchases of American beans in 1982 are factors that could significantly change the projected supply/demand balance.

Field Peas

Field pea price prospects are bright for the 1981 crop, especially for the Canadian yellow pea varieties. A limited carryover of yellow peas in North American and a strong demand have resulted in initial contract prices of $30 per tonne above 1980 prices. Century peas have been contracted for as much as $275 per tonne for No.3CW or better. Depending upon demand and yields in the United States and Canada, the average return realized by Alberta pro-

Special Crops Outlook (cont'd)

ducers could range from $210 to $220 per tonne in the present crop year.

Mustard Seed

At this time there is little likelihood of mustard seed prices exceeding contract levels. Contract prices range up to $397 per tonne for yellow and up to $330 per tonne for brown and oriental mustard varieties. Preliminary estimates place the 1981 Canadian seeded acreage at 186,000 acres, which is well below last year's 280,000 acres. Alberta's mustard acreage is tentatively placed at 35,000 acres or 30 per cent smaller that seeded in 1980. The American mustard acreage is expected to be relatively unchanged from last year. Although crop conditions in the United States are uncertain, supplies are expected to be adequate for market requirements as long as crop conditions remain favorable in Canada. However, there is a possibility of tighter supplies as the spring of 1982 approaches.

**Because of the changing nature of factors affecting this outlook, anyone who wishes to make published reference to its contents, in whole or in part, after August 31, 1981 is requested to consult Mr. Bob Prather.*

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August 10, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF REPLACEMENT EWE LAMBS

Preference should be given to the larger of twin ewe lambs over single animals and those that are not well grown when selecting for replacements or for flock expansion.

This is the opinion of Dr. D. E. Hogue of Cornell University's Department of Animal Science who points out that the continued selection from twins will improve the lambing percentage, even if this improvement seems slow in coming, and that it is something no sheepman can afford to overlook.

He says ewe lambs from the more common breeds like Suffolk, Corriedale, Hampshire and Columbia should weigh from 90 to 100 pounds, and preferably more, before they are bred as lambs. He also says they should be bred to a ram that sires smaller lambs to help avoid lambing difficulties, and that they should be fed to continue growing during pregnancy. They will then weigh at least 120 pounds after lambing and they will be adequate for raising a lamb.

Although Dr. Hogue recommends breeding these larger ewe lambs, he stresses that they will require more attention during lambing than the other ewes in the flock. Not all of them will breed as lambs, and those that do usually produce single lambs, he says. Since single lambs are usually larger at birth than twin lambs, more difficulties are likely to be encountered during their birth. According to Dr. Hogue, it is possible to get an 80 to 100 percent lamb crop from these yearling ewes, which, as he says, is much more profitable than holding them so that they do not lamb until they are two years old. However, if the only replacement ewe lambs available weigh less than 90 pounds, it may be necessary to hold them for a year before they are bred, he says.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM SAFETY – A SERIOUS MATTER

by Andy Birch
District Agriculturist, Stettler

The chief medical examiner's office has reported 24 farm deaths for the first 10 months of last year. Of these, about 50 per cent involved the operation of a tractor while about 75 per cent of the related fatalities were the result of rollovers. Of the farm machinery accidents, harvesting equipment such as combines, swathers and balers were the main causes.

A survey of all types of farm accidents showed that the majority occurred in the farmyard. Most involved serious injury to the hand and arm. The study also revealed that between 3 and 5 p.m. is when most accidents happen, and that most of the victims are between the ages of 18 and 34. This group is followed by the 45 to 60 year-old group.

Let's face it — accidents do happen and for a variety of reasons. Alberta Agriculture, in conjunction with Worker's Health, Safety and Compensation, recently prepared an informative publication entitled "Safety Guide For Farming". It discusses the different types of farm accidents and how they can be avoided. It also describes farm machinery safety, livestock safety, safety in handling tools and chemicals, electrical safety and farm protective equipment. Even more important, it points out how accidents can be prevented and what first aid practices should be followed.

The intent of the publication is to provide information about farm hazards and how they may be avoided in the hope that a responsible attitude towards farm safety will emerge, and that this will lead to the development of a safety consciousness about whatever work is being done. Unfortunately, this often does not occur and safety is momentarily forgotten when work is performed in haste or under strenuous conditions. The safety guide points

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Farm Safety — A Serious Matter (cont'd)

out that it is the way in which three factors interact — environment — agent — man — that determines whether an accident will occur. An agent may be a hazard which itself seldom causes an accident, and since agents can be controlled, accidents need not happen. People are the major determinant regarding whether or not an accident will occur by virtue of the extent to which they have control over the situation. Such things as haste, fatigue, stress, illness, inexperience, poor attitude and ignorance of safety procedures are all listed in the publication as human elements that contribute to farm accidents.

Copies of "Safety Guide for Farming" can be obtained from any of Alberta Agriculture's extension offices.

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August 10, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATTLE AND HOG OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

Alberta Agriculture invites cattle and hog producers to set aside the evening of October 19 and all day on October 20 to attend "Taking Stock".

"Taking Stock" is a cattle and hog market outlook conference, which is designed to give producers information that will help them to plan their production and marketing strategy over the coming year. It is being organized by Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch.

Scheduled for the Westin Hotel (formerly the Calgary Inn) at 320 - 4th Avenue, S.W. Calgary, "Taking Stock" will begin on the evening of October 19 with a reception. The program for the following day is outlined below:

- Interest Rates, Exchange Rates and General Economic Outlook
  — Mike Wiggan, Pitfield Mackay Ross Limited, Toronto, Ontario.
- Long-Term Developments in Supply and Demand Factors for the Meat Sector
  — Dr. Ewen Wilson, American Meat Institute, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
- Outlook for Feed Grains and Protein Supplements
  — Lynn Malmberg, Grain Marketing Consultant, Carseland, Alberta.
- Offshore Meat Outlook and Implications for Canada
  — Joe Macdonald, Thomas Borthwick and Sons (Canada) Ltd., Toronto, Ontario.
- United States Cattle and Hog Outlook
  — Dr. Glenn Grimes, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, U.S.A.
- Canadian Cattle Outlook — Alberta Perspective
  — Bill Gray, Royal Bank of Canada, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- Canadian Hog Outlook — Alberta Perspective
  — Dr. Larry Martin, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario.

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Cattle And Hog Outlook Conference (cont'd)

"Taking Stock" will close with a banquet that will feature a speaker on a current agricultural issue.

The registration fee for the conference is $60 per person, which includes meals and a copy of each speaker's presentation, or $40 per person without meals. Registration forms will be available in late August from district agriculturists or from the Market Analysis Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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August 10, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DAIRY FARM WORRKERS' TRAINING PROGRAM

The department of animal science and continuing education at Olds College will be holding a Dairy Farm Workers' Training Program from September 14 to December 18, 1981. Since enrollment will be limited to 12 students, early registration is recommended.

The training program is the only one of its kind in Alberta and was designed by Olds College in cooperation with Alberta Agriculture and provincial dairymen in response to a request from the latter for such a program.

Students will learn the milking procedure, which will include handling the cows and the milking equipment and sanitation and maintenance of the equipment. They will also learn about dairy cattle nutrition, calf rearing and cattle health and reproduction as well as how to operate such farm machinery as tractors, front-end loaders, etc. They will gain much of their practical experience on the college's dairy farm which has about 80 milking cows.

Dr. Hans Flatla, chairman of the animal science department, says that students who take this course will be capable of handling the milking operation and related tasks on a modern dairy farm when they graduate, and that they should have no difficulty in obtaining a job.

The tuition fee for the 14-week Dairy Farm Workers' Training Program is $201.25 and board and room at the residence, which are optional, would cost $760.

Registration forms and further details can be obtained from Olds College, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0 (Telephone: 556-8383 or 556-8344)

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August 10, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO DISTRICT AGRICULTURISTS-IN-TRAINING ANNOUNCED

Alberta Agriculture's extension division director, John G. Calpas, has announced the appointments of two district agriculturists-in-training — Brian Johnson and Philip Dixon.

Brian Johnson

Mr. Johnson will be taking his training at the Lloydminster district office with district agriculturist Randy Bjorklund. Mr. Johnson is a native of Edmonton and graduated from the University of Alberta in 1980 with a B.Sc. (agriculture). Following graduation, he was employed by Swift Feeds of Edmonton, as territory manager for livestock feed sales. His previous work experience included one summer with Gainers Foods in the block ready beef section and one summer with Chemagro Ltd. at Leduc, where he set out research and demonstration plots.

Philip Dixon

Mr. Dixon will be training at the Medicine Hat office with district agriculturist John Van Keulen. Mr. Dixon is also from Edmonton and graduated in 1979 from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture), having specialized in plant science and horticulture. He was recently employed by Scott International Ltd. in the fresh produce section. Prior to that he worked with the Alberta Research Council for a summer and for another summer at the Alberta Horticulture Research Center at Brooks in the area of horticultural crops.

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AGRI-NEWS

August 17, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

August 17, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM CASH RECEIPTS

Alberta farm cash receipts will increase in 1981 as a result of the continued strength in the grains sector. Grain prices are forecast to remain relatively steady in 1981 and grain deliveries are expected to rise sharply as a result of the continuing improvements in the grain handling and transportation system. The livestock sector has not enjoyed a particularly good year so far in 1981, but some relief in the form of improved hog prices and steady to improved cattle prices is expected in the second half of the year.

Farm cash receipts from wheat will increase significantly in 1981. Steady improvements in the Canadian grain handling and transportation system, combined with higher average prices, have enabled wheat farm cash receipts to reach a level where they are challenging cattle as Alberta's most important agricultural commodity. Wheat deliveries to primary elevators during 1981 are forecast to increase by 27 per cent over 1980, which is a very substantial increase. International wheat prices have deteriorated somewhat in recent weeks and as a result the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) has announced a decrease in the initial payment for wheat for the new crop year. Even with the reduced initial payment, farm prices in the 1981 calendar year will still average higher than in 1980. Farm cash receipts from wheat are projected to be $1,046 million, which would represent an increase of 59 per cent over 1980.

Barley producers are also expected to benefit from higher prices and improved delivery capabilities. Deliveries of barley to primary elevators are projected to increase by 49 per cent over the 1980 calendar year. Prices will also average higher even though the CWB has announced a small decrease in the initial payment for barley in the present crop year. Farm cash receipts from barley are projected to be $464 million, up 49 per cent from 1980. Export deliveries of oats have been lower than expected during the first seven months of 1981, but oat

- (cont'd)

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Farm Cash Receipts (cont'd)

prices have risen, and this will prevent any decline in farm cash receipts for this crop. Oat farm cash receipts at $26 million are projected to remain unchanged compared with 1980.

Farm cash receipts from canola/rapeseed are expected to decline in 1981. Lower international oilseed prices resulted in a 37 per cent decrease in the acres planted to canola in 1980 and a further 27 per cent decrease in 1981. The lower number of acres planted to canola reduced the quantity available for delivery which has resulted in lower farm cash receipts for this crop. Canola prices in 1981 are expected to average about the same as in 1980. Farm cash receipts from canola/rapeseed this year are projected to be $230 million, down from $313 million in 1980.

Rye farm cash receipts will decrease significantly this year. Deliveries of rye to elevators in the January to July period of 1981 have been much lower than anticipated and prices have also declined sharply over the last three months. Prices are expected to increase only marginally during the balance of this year, but deliveries should increase again in the fall as the new crop is harvested. Rye farm cash receipts are projected to be $20 million in 1981, down 33 per cent from 1980. Flaxseed farm cash receipts will also decrease in 1981. Deliveries of this crop in the January to July period are down more than 50 per cent from the same period in 1980. Preliminary acreage estimates in 1981 show a drop of over 40 per cent in the number of acres planted to flaxseed, which will reduce the amount available for sale this fall. Farm cash receipts from flaxseed are projected to be $11 million in 1981, which would represent a decrease of 62 per cent.

Farm cash receipts from sugar beets are expected to decline in 1981 as lower world sugar prices have resulted in reduced payments to Alberta producers. Farm cash receipts from sugar beets are projected to be $28 million in 1981 compared with $45 million in 1980.

Farm cash receipts from potatoes should increase by approximately 15 per cent in 1981 in response to a strong market and higher contract prices for producers. Potato farm cash receipts are projected to be $17 million in 1981.

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Farm Cash Receipts (cont'd)

Farm cash receipts from cattle and calves in 1981 are projected to increase by about 8 per cent from the level achieved in the previous two years. Federally inspected marketings are anticipated to increase by a small amount, and prices will average only slightly higher than in 1980. The fact that cattlemen have been squeezed by high interest rates and increasing input costs in 1981, and the dampening effect that substantial red meat supplies have had on prices, have resulted in losses for many producers. Prices for slaughter cattle are only expected to increase marginally during the rest of this year. Farm cash receipts from cattle and calves are projected at $1,285 million in 1981.

Hog producers have also felt the effect of increasing input costs and the resulting squeeze on profits. Hog prices fell steadily from January to May of this year, increased in June and are expected to remain near $70 per hundredweight for the balance of the year. Hog marketings for all of 1981 are anticipated to decline by 3 to 5 per cent from 1980. The Alberta government extended its Emergency Stop Loss Program from April 1 to June 30 of 1981 to provide assistance to producers during the period of low prices, and payments to Alberta producers under this program are expected to total $9 million this year. Farm cash receipts from hogs are projected to be $188 million in 1981, up 10 per cent from 1980.

Farm cash receipts from sheep and lambs are projected to increase by 50 per cent in 1981 because slaughterings have increased significantly over 1980. Farm cash receipts from sheep and lambs are projected to be $12 million this year.

Farm cash receipts from dairy products are projected to increase by 18 per cent in 1981 to $175 million. This is the result of higher consumption brought about by an increasing population combined with farm prices that are based on cost of production.

Poultry farm cash receipts are expected to increase by 17 per cent in 1981 since broiler prices and production are both forecast to increase over the previous year. Poultry farm cash receipts are forecast to be $75 million this year. Egg prices are also expected to

Farm Cash Receipts (cont'd)

increase in 1981, and farm cash receipts for this commodity are projected to be $43 million, up 16 per cent from 1980.

Total farm cash receipts in 1981 are projected to be $3,798 million, up 21 per cent from 1980. Realized net income is projected to be $895 million compared with $662 million in 1980. Although this figure would represent a 35 per cent increase in realized net income, it should be noted that this increase does not apply to all farmers or to all segments of Alberta's agricultural economy.

** Because of the changing nature of factors affecting this outlook, anyone who wises to refer to its contents, in whole or in part, anytime after August 31, 1981, is requested to consult the author, Phil Jensen of Alberta Agriculture's Statistics Branch.*

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August 17, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATTLE OUTLOOK

A1 and A2 steers at Calgary are expected to average from $76 to $78 per hundredweight during the present quarter and to average in the low $80 range in Toronto.

Carolyn Scott of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch reports that the United States Department of Agriculture estimates that choice steer prices at Omaha will be in the low to mid $80 per hundredweight range during the present quarter. However, cattle prices in both Canada and the United States will probably move lower in the fourth quarter in response to seasonally larger supplies of both hogs and poultry.

Canadian slaughter cattle marketings are expected to increase slightly during the present and fourth quarters compared with the same two quarters in 1980, but they will continue to decline in Alberta during the remainder of the third quarter. However, heifer and cow slaughter in Alberta is predicted to increase during this period compared with last year.

Feeder cattle prices, particularly calf prices, are predicted to come under pressure this fall because feedlot operators cannot afford to pay the price premiums for feeders that they have been paying during the last two years. Ms. Scott says Alberta feeder prices for steer calves will probably average in the low to mid $70 per hundredweight range.

According to Ms. Scott, feeder cattle sales will be an important aspect of this fall's cattle supply. "Present losses incurred in feedlot operations suggest that more cattle will be fed out this fall in Western Canada than was the case in 1980," she says.

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Alberta
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Communications Division

August 17, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOG OUTLOOK

Third quarter prices for 100 index hogs at Edmonton are expected to average in the mid $70 range per hundredweight dressed.

Carolyn Scott, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, reports that Alberta's production of market hogs is estimated to be 426,000 head for the third quarter of this year, which represents a 2 per cent decline from the third quarter of 1980.

Ms. Scott says that in the last half of 1981, the price strength from the American hog market will be offset by an expected increase of 6 to 8 per cent in that country's poultry production and larger North American beef supplies compared with the last half of 1980.

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August 17, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAMB OUTLOOK

Alberta lamb prices for the third quarter of this year are expected to average between $63 and $68 per hundredweight live which would be similar to 1980 fall prices. The price for A and B lamb in Toronto is expected to average in the upper $70 to low $80 range.

Carolyn Scott, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, believes that Alberta slaughter in the third and fourth quarters of 1981 will continue to exceed that of a year ago by as much as 50 to 60 per cent as we move into the seasonally high supply period. Her opinion is based on the continued increase in lamb supplies during the first half of this year.

She says that since there has been no indication of a sell-off of ewe lambs during the past few months, the trend towards increasing supply is expected to continue into 1982.

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August 11, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TURKEY OUTLOOK

A sharp increase in consumption has been the most significant feature of the Alberta turkey market during the first half of this year.

Terry Appleby, analyst with Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, reports that processors have been offering attractive retail prices for all classes of turkey to liquidate their inventories. He also says turkey consumption was up by 48 per cent at 2.5 million pounds during the last six months, and that heavy turkey consumption increased by 119 per cent to 4.9 million pounds.

Relatively speaking, turkey stocks in Alberta at the beginning of 1981 were much higher than the national level, and production in 1981 has been cutback by 9 per cent in the provincial quota allocation. Hence, the trade has been faced with the challenge of reducing stock levels in the short term while, at the same time, securing adequate supplies for the remainder of the year.

By the end of June broiler marketings for the year totalled 2.5 million pounds, representing a 7.7 per cent increase compared with the first half of 1980. However, heavy turkey marketings were down by about 12 per cent, and imports of both turkey carcasses and live turkeys totalled about one million pounds, representing a 14 per cent decline compared with the same period last year.

On July 1, 1981, Alberta broiler turkeys were trading at 67¢ per pound or 5¢ per pound higher than on January 1 and almost 10¢ per pound higher than was the case a year ago. Tom turkeys advanced 7¢ per pound to 65¢ per pound which was almost 9¢ per pound higher than they were in July 1980.

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Turkey Outlook (cont'd)

Mr. Appleby says the Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency's cutback in quota for 1981 and the large decline in available supplies during the first half of this year will probably result in a tight turkey supply situation in Alberta by early fall. He expects retail prices for Thanksgiving and Christmas turkeys to be sharply higher, and the volume of turkey that moves into the province during this year to increase as processors supplement local supplies with those from outside the province.

* *Because of the changing nature of factors affecting this outlook, anyone who wishes to make published reference to its contents, in whole or in part, after August 31, 1981 is requested to consult Mr. Appleby.*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICKEN OUTLOOK

Producer prices for chicken in Alberta are expected to advance moderately over the coming months.

Terry Appleby of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch expects that the present balanced supply-demand situation in the province to continue. Broiler chicken placements to date are about equal to the 6 per cent rise in consumption that was recorded during the second quarter of the year.

"The Canadian chicken industry as a whole is entering the last half of 1981 in a favorable supply-demand position," Mr. Appleby says, "and carryover stocks have remained basically unchanged during the past six months." The 15 million pound carryover into the last half of the year is only marginally higher than the 10-year average and suggests that the Canadian Chicken Marketing Agency has been adequately forecasting chicken demand to date.

In the short term, chicken meat supplies appear to be reasonable and Canadian broiler chick placements are about 1.5 per cent higher than they were at this time last year. In fact, they match the marginally higher production quota that is scheduled for the last half of the year.

According to Mr. Appleby, future prospects for increased consumption of chicken meat also appear favorable. Pork prices, which had an adverse effect on the chicken market last year, are higher this year and are not expected to decline until the end of 1981. Beef prices, which are expected to remain high until the end of the barbequeing season, could make chicken prices appear more attractive relative to red meat in spite of the increases that have resulted from the industry's efforts to recoup last year's losses. "The net result, Mr. Appleby says, "is a potentially higher consumption of chicken meat during the remainder of the year."

* ***Because of the changing nature of factors affecting this outlook, anyone who wishes to make published reference to its contents, in whole or in part, after August 31, 1981 is requested to consult Mr. Appleby.***

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

August 17, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA HONEY PRICE PROSPECTS

Prospects for Alberta's 1981 honey crop over the next 12 months are for a significant improvement in prices, according to Bob Prather, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture.

Sales from last year's crop have been excellent and carryover supplies are expected to be minimal. Mr. Prather says the stable demand and the positive price prospects in Canada, coupled with the likelihood of high prices in the United States, suggest that Alberta beekeepers will be looking at prices as high or higher than $1.38 to $1.45 per kg on a bulk basis.

However, production prospects for Alberta's 1981 crop are somewhat mixed. The honey season started earlier than usual this year, but it is expected to end in the first week of August because of the weather conditions that have prevailed this summer. In the past, an open fall has been known to push the nectar flow well into September. Another important factor has been the drop in clover and canola acreages which has resulted from poor market returns for both crops and the clover winterkill that occurred in the Peace River region. This situation has caused beekeepers in the Peace River region to increase the concentration of their hives in fewer beeyards. The net result will be that Alberta beekeepers will have difficulty reaching last year's production level of 10,300 tonnes even though the total number of colonies is expected to be the same as last year, which was 160,000. This year's 160,000 colonies will include around 37,000 that were overwintered with the remainder consisting of colonies that were started with package bees that were imported from the United States.

** Because of the changing nature of factors affecting this report, anyone who wishes to make published reference to its contents, in whole or in part, after August 31, 1981 is requested to consult Mr. Prather.*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BERTHA ARMYWORM SITUATION

Canola growers in the countries of Vulcan and Willow Creek are strongly advised to check their crops in mid-August for bertha armyworms.

Although bertha armyworms are not considered to be a widespread threat in the countries of Lethbridge, Wheatland or Paintearth or in the municipal districts of Foothills and Kneehill, canola growers there are also advised to check their crops because a large number of moths have been recorded in several locations. Canola crops in other parts of the province are not at risk.

H.J. Liu, field crops entomologist with Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, suggests the following procedure for checking canola crops to see whether or not chemical control measures are warranted.

Beat the foliage in at least five separate areas that are one square metre in size and located 10 to 20 paces into the crop in each field. Then count the bertha armyworms that drop off the plants. If you find an average of 10 or more per square metre, chemical control measures are justified.

A more effective, but also a more time-consuming method of checking for bertha armyworms is to cut off the plants at ground level in each square metre area and then shake them over the cleared space. Again, if you find an average of 10 or more bertha armyworms per square metre, chemical control is justified.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SWATHING RAPESEED

by Andy Birch
District Agriculturist, Stettler

Here are some factors to consider when deciding when to swath canola/rapeseed.

Seed color is the more important indicator of maturity and proper stage to cut than is field color. About 25 per cent of the seeds should have started to change from green to brown in Argentine varieties (Altex, Tower, Regent) and green to yellow or brown in the Candle variety. At this point, the moisture content should be about 35 per cent and the seeds in the firm dough stage.

To get a representative sample of the degree of color change, collect the seed from both the upper and lower pods of 10 to 12 plants in different parts of the field. This procedure will take into account the variation in seed maturity on individual plants and between plants in different locations. Then mix the samples and calculate the percentage of color change.

There should be some color change in the seed in all the pods on the main branch of the plants before the Polish varieties (Candle, Torch) are swathed. In the case of the Argentine varieties, all the seeds in the lowest pods on the main branch should have changed color.

Early swathing (over 45% seed moisture) can reduce yield and cause grade losses, while swathing too late may result in serious shattering losses.

It is advisable when swathing to cut just below the lowest pods so that a maximum amount of stubble will be left standing. Reels should be set as high and as far forward as possible with the reel speed the same as the forward ground speed. If a crop is lodged or tangled, it may be necessary to use a pick-up reel. It may also be helpful under these conditions to extend the divider board. Cutting in the direction of the prevailing wind or using a swath roller to anchor the swath in the stubble will help reduce wind damage.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SILO STORAGE LOSSES

A dairy nutritionist at Beltsville, Maryland in the United States has been able to keep dry matter losses in bunker or trench silos to 9 per cent by packing the material tightly, filling the silo as rapidly as possible and sealing it by weighing down the plastic cover with chopped forage or sawdust. However, the drymatter loss rose to 28 per cent when the plastic cover was severely damaged.

The same nutritionist found that gas-tight silos usually have a somewhat lower drymatter storage loss than upright concrete silos and that bunker silos have a greater loss than upright silos. He reported that the average drymatter loss was usually less than 5 per cent when haylage was stored in a gas-tight silo compared with an average loss of 8 per cent for a concrete stove silo.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AVOID FOOD-BORNE ILLNESSES

Don't take a chance on getting a food-borne illness on your picnic!

Although food-borne illnesses are caused by several kinds of bacteria, ***Staphylococcus aureus*** (staph) and salmonella are two of the main culprits. Since Staph, which probably causes most of the food-borne illnesses, is a bacterium that is found in the nose and throat of most people, food that is carelessly handled can be easily contaminated. These bacteria like to grow in moist, creamy foods and in meat, and as they grow, they produce a toxin which causes the illness. Cramps, nausea, vomitting and diarrhea, which begin one to six hours after the contaminated food has been eaten, and which last a day or so, are typical symptoms.

Salmonellosis can occasionally cause death. In such cases, the salmonella that is present in the food invades the lining of the stomach and intestines where it causes an infection. Cramps, chills, fever, vomitting and diarrhea are typical symptoms of salmonellosis. They begin eight to 24 hours after the contaminated food has been eaten and last for several days. Domestic animals are often carriers of salmonella, and poultry, eggs and egg products are particularly susceptible.

A third food-borne illness is caused by *Clostridium botulinum* which is a bacterium found in most soils. Because it is anaerobic, it is usually associated with improperly processed canned meat, fish or vegetable products. Symptoms can begin anywhere from one day to one week after the contaminated food has been eaten and include vomitting, diarrhea, headaches and weakness, which can be followed by double vision and paralysis of the functions of the nervous system. Since this food-borne illness is often fatal, prompt, expert medical care is essential.

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Avoid Food-borne Illnesses (cont'd)

The food that causes the above illnesses is not necessarily bad. It can look, smell and taste fine, but if it is contaminated and held at room temperature, the bacteria will multiply and can cause a food-borne illness in those who eat it.

How can one prevent food-borne illnesses? Linda St. Onge of Alberta Agriculture's home economics laboratory in Edmonton, recommends the following precautionary measures.

- Make sure food is prepared under sanitary conditions (hands and utensils).
- Keep food hot (above 60 ° C) or cold (4° C). This means plenty of ice in the cooler during a picnic.
- Choose foods for a picnic that are the least susceptible to bacterial growth. For example, take cold sliced meats (rather than a meat or fish salad) and a marinated vegetable salad with an acidic dressing like Italian, French or mayonnaise. Do not take canned meat or fish unless you know that it was properly processed.
- Make sure there is plenty of refrigerator space or ice on hand in the case of a "pot luck" picnic where everyone brings something.

Some foods, like sandwiches, can be taken to a picnic frozen and eaten as soon as they thaw out.

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August 17, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PATHOLOGY BRANCH HEAD APPOINTED

Dr. Ralph Christian, director of Alberta Agriculture's animal health division, has announced the appointment of Dr. Gerald Johnson to the position of head of the pathology branch at the O.S. Longman Building in Edmonton.

Prior to his new appointment, Dr. Johnson spent five years as head of the histology and electron microscopy section. He joined the division in 1974 as a veterinarian in the animal section.

Dr. Johnson comes from Ontario and graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1969. He worked in small, large and mixed animal practices in Alberta and British Columbia before taking post-graduate education.

He is a 1977 Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Pathology and has a post-graduate diploma in Veterinary Acquatic Studies from the University of Stirling in Scotland as well as a post graduate diploma in Veterinary Pathology from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

In his new position, Dr. Johnson will be responsible for the operation of the animal, poultry, and reproductive sections in the Edmonton laboratory, where submissions are examined and reports sent out to veterinarians and owners. He will also be involved in consultation with staff and non-government groups and individuals regarding animal health and diseases.

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August 17, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED FOR STRATHMORE

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers has announced the appointment of Brenda White to the position of district home economist at Strathmore. Her appointment will take effect on August 25.

Ms. White comes from Winnipeg, Manitoba, and graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1976, having specialized in foods and nutrition. She worked for Nor'West Co-op Health and School Services, Inc. in Winnipeg as a community home economist from September 1977 to April 1978. The following June she became a county home economist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food where she remained until December 1979.

Ms. White joined Alberta Agriculture in January of 1980 and became district home economist at Valleyview and remained in that position until her present appointment.

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Alberta
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Communications Division

August 17, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST IN-TRAINING

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced that Laura Lee Allison will be taking her district home economist training at Lethbridge with district home economist Linda Barvir.

Ms. Allison was born in Merit, British Columbia, and raised on a beef and grain farm near Delburne, Alberta. She graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (home economics) in 1981, having majored in family studies.

Ms. Allison spent last summer as an assistant district home economist at Bonnyville and from November 1979 until April, 1980 doing volunteer work in the Consumer Drop-In Centre at Grant MacEwan Community College in Edmonton. From February 1979 until September 1979 she was regional co-ordinator for Hire-A-Student in the Red Deer region, which involved hiring and training staff and acting as a resource person to the office managers and committees that ran the local offices.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA WESTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALOMYELITIS SITUATION

Alberta horse owners who have not had their horses vaccinated against Western Equine Encephalomyelitis (WEE) are advised to contact their veterinarian.

Dr. Jacobus Pantekoek of Alberta Agriculture's animal health division reports that the animal health diagnostic laboratory in Edmonton has isolated a TOGA virus that is highly suspicious in two horses from the Peace River region that showed clinical evidence of WEE before they died. The virus isolates have been sent to the Arbo Virus Laboratory in Toronto for definite confirmation.

Dr. Pantekoek also says that two clinically suspicious but unconfirmed cases of WEE have been reported in horses from the central and eastern parts of the province. He also says that reports from Alberta Agriculture's regional laboratories in both Lethbridge and Airdrie indicate that the disease is not yet present in southern Alberta.

Relatively few laboratory confirmed cases of WEE have occurred in Alberta during the past five years. However, in view of the apparent increase in Manitoba and the ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes in at least the central and northern parts of Alberta, an increase in provincial cases is expected.

WEE is caused by a viral agent which is mainly transmitted by blood sucking insects, especially certain species of mosquitoes. The natural reservoir hosts for the virus are wild and domestic birds. When the disease is in its reservoir hosts, it is not apparent. It only becomes apparent when it is present in its end hosts, two of the most susceptible being horses and human beings.

According to Dr. Pantekoek, WEE can occur throughout the summer and fall seasons, but it reaches its peak in August and September when certain mosquito species are also at their peak.

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AGRI-NEWS

August 24, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
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COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

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August 24, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW NUTRITIVE PROCESSING AGREEMENT SIGNED

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Dallas W. Schmidt, has announced the signing of a new $28 million federal-provincial Nutritive Processing Agreement. It will be in force until March 31, 1984.

The new agreement will provide assistance to firms that process nutritive products for animal and human consumption; assistance to firms that process products of plant or animal origin and assistance to firms engaged in nutritive research and development. The previous agreement gave assistance only to firms that processed nutritive products for animal and human consumption.

Mr. Schmidt says the agreement should continue to strengthen and diversify Alberta's rural economy.

It was signed at Brooks by Alberta's minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs, Dick Johnston, and the federal minister of Regional Economic Expansion, Pierre De Bané. Under it the costs of financial support for qualifying firms will be shared equally by the two levels of government.

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August 24, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINTERKILL RESULTS IN A FOUR MILLION DOLLAR LOSS TO ALFALFA INDUSTRY

Northern Alberta's alfalfa dehydration industry will lose $4 million this year as a direct result of winterkill.

Dr. J.S. McKenzie of Agriculture Canada's research station at Beaverlodge, reports that 30 per cent of the alfalfa acreage in north-central Alberta and parts of the Peace River region were destroyed or severely injured last winter by cold soil temperatures, sparse snow cover and icy conditions. He points out that the dollar value attached to this loss does not include the reduction in yields that will be experienced by many growers this season.

Northeastern Alberta, where more than 70 per cent of the alfalfa in the Lac La Biche and St. Paul areas was killed, sustained the worst injury. Although the region experienced the same stresses last winter as the remainder of the affected area in both Alberta and British Columbia, plants that were already weakened in northeastern Alberta were further damaged by several late spring frosts, and many failed to recover.

Dr. McKenzie reports that Grimm alfalfa was one of the best survivors of all the commercial cultivars grown in northeastern Alberta. He attributes this to its superior winterhardiness and its ability to survive frequent spring frosts. He says Grimm has done very well in past years in the Falher area which also experiences frequent spring frosts.

He believes that Peace, a new alfalfa variety developed at the Beaverlodge and Fort Vermilion research centres, has considerable potential from the point of view of reducing winterkill. Its winterhardiness is apparently superior to all the other cultivars being grown in northwestern Canada, including Grimm, and it exhibits a minimum yield reduction when

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Winterkill Results In a Four Million Dollar Loss To Alfalfa Industry (cont'd)

clipped during the August 1 to September 15 critical harvesting period. Dr. McKenzie says some seed may be available next year, but large supplies will not be available until 1985.

He thinks that winter injury, and the resulting competition from weeds, could be mainly responsible for the fact that alfalfa in northwestern Canada is not able to attain its maximum yield potential for more than one year during the maximum five-year life of a stand. "Average yields in this area are less than 40 per cent of the crop's potential," he says "and severe winterkill has been reported three times in the last eight years."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEEDER HEIFER DISCOUNT – IS IT JUSTIFIED?

Cow-calf producers often wonder whether a 8¢ to 12¢ discount per pound on stock heifer calves is justified in the market place. A summary of recent research reported in the April issue of "The Grain Grower" suggests that a discount of up to 14¢ may be needed in some cases while in others a difference of 8¢ might be enough.

Research Results

The research studies reported in the "Grain Grower" showed rates of gain for steer calves of from 10 to 18 per cent higher than those for heifer calves, and that the steer calves required from 4 to 11 per cent less feed to produce a pound of gain. The studies were carried out over a 10-year period in Michigan, Minnesota and Washington State, U.S.A., to compare rates of gain and feed conversion between similar lots of steer and heifer calves fed to a similar level of finish.

The study results also showed that stock heifer calves would have to sell for from 8.31¢ to 14.32¢ per pound less than the steer calves if the feeder were to obtain the same profit from each. This conclusion was reached when the results were used to calculate the relative costs of feeding heifer and steer calves. The analysis assumed feed costs of $154 per tonne, yardage charges of 12.3¢ per day, an interest rate of 15 per cent, a price for stock steer calves of 75¢ per pound and a discount on slaughter heifers of 3¢ per pound compared with steer prices.

The highest discount of 14.32¢ per pound was needed for a group of heifer calves put into the feedlot at weights of 440-450 pounds and fed to gain at 1.8 to 2 pounds per day for about 285 days. The lowest discount needed was for a group of calves put on feed at 570-580 pounds and fed to gain 2.6 to 2.9 pounds per day for 198 days. The latter group had been sired by Simmental crossbred bulls mated to Hereford females.

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Feeder Heifer Discount — Is It Justified? (cont'd)

Heifers Fatten Faster

Part of the reason for the poorer gain and feed conversion recorded for the heifers is that heifers tend to mature and fatten earlier than steers. Hence, they usually produce a carcass that will "cut out" a lower percentage of lean meat than a steer. To compensate for this lower percentage, packers pay a discount of 2¢ to 5¢ per pound.

Also, at a given degree of finish, heifers tend to carry more waste fat in the udder, around the internal organs and on the carcass as a whole than steers. The fact that heifers tend to fatten earlier and that it takes four to six times as much feed to produce a pound of fat as it takes to produce a pound of muscle accounts for the slower growth rate and poorer feed conversion in heifers compared with steers. However, crossbred animals with European breeds in their background tend to grow faster, mature later and carry less fat at a given weight, which could be responsible for the heavier heifers from Simmental crossbred bulls getting less of a discount. Since these animals have probably put on less fat at the normal slaughter weight, their feed conversion record is better. The relationship between dairy type heifers and steers might also suggest a lower discount.

Marketing Strategy

The "Grain Grower" report points out that the price spread required between heifers and steers will vary between groups of cattle because their performance level varies. Current cattle and feed prices will also affect the required spread.

A review of prices for 500-600-pound calves at Alberta stockyards from October 1980 to June 1981 shows a wide range of discounts for heifer calves. Last fall the discount was running at between 9¢ and 17¢ per pound, while this spring it ranged from 8¢ to 11¢ per pound.

Feeder Heifer Discount - Is It Justified? (cont'd)

If a cow-calf operator feels that the price differential between the sexes of his type of cattle is too high, he might consider having a pen of heifers and a pen of steers custom fed so that he can document the difference in the performance of the sexes for himself. Such information would enable him to calculate the price spread that is justified in any given year. Then if a buyer offers less than his heifers are worth, he could have them custom fed that year.

Since, a cow-calf producer who has a small herd would have difficulty putting together a group of heifer calves for a custom feedlot, he might consider feeding them himself or backgrounding them until there is a more reasonable relationship in the market if he feels the discount is too high. Naturally, his decision would be influenced by whether the overall market for feeder cattle is likely to improve or deteriorate before the heifers are sold.

More information on heifer calf discounts can be obtained from the April issue of the "Grain Grower" (page 420.865) or from Ross Gould, Head Special Projects Section, Beef Cattle and Sheep Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8. (Telephone: 427-5335).

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August 24, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DON'T PANIC OVER LOW FESCUE PRICES

Creeping red fescue growers should not rush into quick sales of their seed for fear of still lower prices or of not being able to dispose of their whole crop.

This advice comes from the Alberta Forage Seed Council, the Alberta Branch of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association and the Alberta Wheat Pool, which reports no creeping red fescue seed carryover and which feels that there should be a good market for this product.

The Alberta Wheat Pool has conducted an indepth study of the fescue market situation and has concluded that there is no valid reason for the weakening of price offerings or for panic selling. In fact, it has gone on record as advocating orderly marketing and the withholding of seed until the present situation improves.

Following is the message the Alberta Wheat Pool is broadcasting over many provincial radio stations.

"Recent downward pressure on country offering prices for creeping red fescue does not reflect real market opportunities. Growers are encouraged to hold fescue supplies until the strength of the international market can be assured. Alberta Wheat Pool believes that North American fine fescue production can be disposed of with stability before the 1982 harvest. Further weakening of country offering prices is not justified. In their own interest growers should withhold further supplies from the market."

The Alberta Forage Seed Council and the Alberta Branch of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association fully support the Alberta Wheat Pool's position on this subject.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A GUIDE TO CUSTOM RATES

Every custom operator wants to be sure that he is charging enough to provide a reasonable return on his investment and every farmer who hires a custom operator wants to be sure that he is paying a fair price.

To help both custom operators and those who hire custom operators, Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch has just released the 1981 "Farm Machinery Costs as a Guide to Custom Rates". The format is the same as previous editions and the new costs are based on a limited survey of dealer list prices in February of this year.

The publication contains some farm machinery information and outlines an approach for calculating custom rates which can help to determine fair custom charges. It also provides a breakdown of fixed and variable costs for common farm implements and worksheets to help farmers calculate their individual machinery costs.

The custom rates outlined in "Farm Machinery Costs as a Guide to Custom Rates" are based on surveys of 1980 custom operation costs, which were carried out by Unifarm and Alberta Agriculture's Agriculture Input Monitoring System. Those who compiled the information plan to continue surveying custom rates this season.

Copies of "Farm Machinery Costs as a Guide to Custom Rates" (Agdex 825-4) can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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August 24, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOIL STERILANT INJURY TO TREES

Every summer an increasing number of samples of trees and shrubs that have been injured by soil sterilants are received at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center's regional crop laboratory. The sad thing is that most of this damage could have been prevented if the owners of the trees and shrubs had followed the directions on the labels of the products they used.

The research center's plant pathologist, Dr. Ronald Howard, says that anybody who uses a soil sterilant should always avoid using a higher application rate than that recommended on the product label, and that he or she should be very careful to prevent the spray or spray drift from coming in contact with non-target trees. He points out that spray drift can be minimized by spraying only during relatively calm periods of the day, by applying a coarse spray rather than a fine one and by keeping the spray nozzle as close to the target as possible. And to avoid a build up of sterilants in the soil, a persistent soil sterilant should only be re-applied when more weeds appear.

Dr. Howard also says that equipment that is used for applying a soil sterilant should not be used to apply other agricultural chemicals like fungicides, insecticides or fertilizers. However, if other chemicals must be applied with the same equipment, the equipment should be thoroughly cleaned before it is used.

Damage from soil sterilants can range all the way from mild injury, which requires no treatment, to very severe injury and the death of the tree or shrub. Dr. Howard says that before any therapeutic treatment can be begun, it is necessary to know whether the injury was caused by the application of the sterilant to the soil or by spray drift and whether at the concentration used the sterilant is likely to be non-persistent or persistent.

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Soil Sterilant Injury To Trees (cont'd)

If the sterilant is non-persistent, it can be assumed that no further injury will occur, and treatment can be aimed solely at helping the tree to recover. If, on the other hand, the sterilant is persistent, measures will have to be taken to detoxify the soil so that further injury will not occur. According to Dr. Howard, most soil sterilants can be detoxified by putting activated charcoal over the roots of the trees and working it into the soil. The amount needed will depend upon the concentration of herbicide that was applied.

Minor foliar injury does not usually require any treatment, but severe foliar injury or defoliation usually requires treatment if the tree survives. An application of a balanced fertilizer in the spring will help the tree to replace the nutrients it lost through its foliar injury. Dr. Howard recommends applying a phosphate fertilizer to encourage root growth on a tree that has had its roots damaged by a soil sterilant and thinning out some of the branches.

He says an excessive amount of water should never be applied to an area that has been treated with a sterilant because of the danger of the sterilant leaching through the soil. Most important of all is to avoid reapplying any soil sterilant near a tree that has been affected by the previous application.

Dr. Howard says "Although soil sterilant injury often appears to be severe, especially in the foliage, the prompt application of remedial measures will often enable the injured tree or shrub to recover and resume its normal growth in successive seasons."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE EFFECT OF SALTS IN WATER ON ROUNDUP

Salts found naturally in water can have an inhibiting effect on results obtained from Roundup, particularly when the herbicide is used at low rates, according to Rudy Esau of the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

In studies conducted by P.W. Stahlman and W.M. Phillips of the Kansas Experimental Station at Fort Hays in the United States a number of inorganic salts were added to distilled water which was then mixed with Roundup at two different rates and sprayed on sorghum plants growing in a greenhouse. The plants were harvested after four to six days, weighed and compared with those which had been sprayed with the same rates of Roundup that had been mixed with distilled water.

The researchers found that when Roundup at a rate of 0.56 kg/ha was applied in water containing 560 ppm of iron, it had no effect on the sorghum plants, and that when the same rate was mixed with water containing zinc or calcium, its normal effectiveness was reduced. A level of 240 ppm of magnesium in the water reduced the activity of Roundup moderately, while 420 ppm of sodium had no affect. Potassium did not appear to affect the activity of Roundup either, but aluminum had an inhibiting effect similar to that of iron. In all cases some of the reduction in effectiveness of the herbicide was overcome by increasing the application rate of Roundup to 0.84 kg/ha.

The researchers also studied the effect on Roundup of various levels of acidity and alkalinity in water. They found that none of the levels of acidity used had any effect on Roundup, but that as the level of alkalinity, which was modified by sodium hydroxide, was increased, the time that it took Roundup to kill the plants also increased.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF MOSQUITOES

An aquatic fungus, found in the irrigated areas of Alberta and Saskatchewan, has been found to cause a significant natural mortality in the larvae of a certain species of mosquito.

Many countries have become interested in the biological control of mosquitoes for two main reasons. One is the increasing concern about environmental contamination from the use of pesticides and the other is that mosquitoes are showing more and more resistance to the commonly used insecticides.

In 1973 scientists at the University of Washington in the United States undertook to culture the fungus *Coelomomyces psorophorae* that had been found in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Their work led to the discovery of an intermediate host in the life-history of the fungus and to its successful propagation. It was also found that the fungus was a parasite of only certain species of mosquito and that it does not affect other aquatic insects.

Six years after the American research, Dr. M.A. Shemanchuk of the federal research station at Lethbridge carried out a field test using caged mosquito larvae of the *Culiseta inornata* species and laboratory-cultured *Coelomomyces psorophorae* in six artificially constructed pools at Eight-Mile Lake near Lethbridge.

"The test results", says Dr. Shemanchuk, "confirmed our field observations that the fungus is an effective parasite of mosquito larvae." It was apparently most effective when it was introduced into mosquito habitats that were in the reproductive stage. At this stage it achieved a 64 per cent kill.

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Biological Control Of Mosquitoes (cont'd)

Dr. Shemanchuk also says that the results of this test indicate that the fungus will have practical application as a short-term microbial pesticide in controlling *Culiseta inornata* and for long-term biological control in mosquito breeding areas where the fungus does not occur naturally.

He is presently collaborating with the American scientists at the University of Washington in expanded field trials which involve *Culiseta inornata* and other species of mosquitoes that are found in the Prairies.

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August 24, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FALL CONTROL OF RING ROT

Have you thoroughly cleaned and disinfected your potato harvesting equipment (tools, digger, sacks, truck, box, etc.) and storage facilities to prevent the spread of ring rot?

Dr. Ronald Howard, plant pathologist with the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks, recommends a high pressure hot water or steam cleaner for cleaning potato equipment. He also recommends such disinfectants as 5 per cent formaldehyde, 10 per cent bleach or quaternary ammonium solutions like Hy-X and Potato Gard. The disinfectants should be used after the mud has been removed, and a treatment time of 30 minutes is required to completely control ring rot bacteria on non-metal surfaces.

Bacterial ring rot is probably the most serious potato disease in Alberta and is a problem in home gardens as well as in commercial fields. It is very infectious and is caused by the bacterium *Corynebacterium sepedonicum*. Field symptoms can vary from one variety to another and even within a variety. In Netted Gem, for example, the leaves of infected plants are often slightly yellow or mottled and roll upwards. Later one or more of the stems in a hill may become dwarfed and the leaves on these stems tend to twist and to form rosettes. Later in the season, such plants may wilt and die. Norland potato plants that are infected with ring rot are usually stunted, and exhibit interveinal chlorosis and wilting, but their leaves do not form rosettes.

When the lower stem of all potato varieties that are in the later stage of the disease is cut and squeezed, it exudes a milky bacterial suspension. Decay usually develops in the interior of the tubers, especially in the vascular ring area which is located 5 - 10 mm below the surface. A cheezy-like mass of bacteria will often ooze out of the rotted tissue when the tuber is squeezed.

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Fall Control Of Ring Rot (cont'd)

As far as is known, ring rot bacteria do not survive or multiply in the soil in a field that is subjected to normal moisture and temperature fluctuations from one season to another. However, because it is possible for them to overwinter in diseased tubers and vines that are left on the surface of a field, commercial growers should work them into the soil after the crop has been harvested to facilitate decomposition. Home gardeners should gather up diseased tubers and vines and either put them into the garbage or burn them. They should not be used for compost.

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August 24, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VETERINARY ENDOWMENT LECTURE FUND

An endowment lecture fund is being set up by Alberta Agriculture in memory of the late Dr. J.G. O'Donoghue who was deputy minister at the time of his sudden death on July 4 of this year.

The fund, to be known as the Dr. J.G. O'Donoghue Memorial Lecture Endowment Fund, will be used to pay for an annual lecture to be presented to the staff and students of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Alberta by an outstanding veterinarian. The lectures will also be given at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, if funds permit.

It is felt that these memorial lectures will be a fitting tribute to Dr. O'Donoghue who lectured in veterinary science to agricultural students at the University of Alberta for 17 years before he was appointed director of Alberta Agriculture's veterinary services division (now the animal health division) in 1965. He has always been a strong promoter of good relations between veterinary medicine and agriculture.

Dr. O'Donoghue was born in Stratford, Ontario, and was a 1942 graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College. He served overseas as a lieutenant in the Canadian army during World War II and came to Alberta with the federal health of animals branch after having been discharged. He joined Alberta agriculture's veterinary services division in 1948. He was appointed assistant deputy minister of production in 1972 and deputy minister in 1975.

Dr. O'Donoghue was known for his pioneer work connected with vitamin A deficiency in cattle and the effects that sulphur dioxide and hydrogen sulphide from gas and oil

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Veterinary Endowment Lecture Fund (cont'd)

fields can have on livestock as well as for his experiments in the early 1960's on the possible toxic effects of pesticides and herbicides on animals.

Anyone who would like to contribute to the Dr. J.G. O'Donoghue Memorial Lecture Endowment Fund can do so by sending a cheque, payable to the Dr. O'Donoghue Memorial Trust Account, to the Deputy Minister's Office, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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August 24, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER FIELD DAY

The selection and maintenance of woody ornamentals will be featured at the 19th. annual Alberta Horticultural Research Center field day on August 28. A miniature garden centre will be set up to display the many species of trees and shrubs that are suitable for gardens in Alberta.

The growing and use of herbs and spices will be another highlight and there will be numerous other displays and demonstrations. For example, a pruning clinic will be used to demonstrate pruning methods for trees and shrubs, and a plant pest clinic will provide information on plant disease and insect problems. There will also be a demonstration of flower arranging.

In addition to displays and demonstrations, tours of fruit, vegetable, greenhouse and special crops research plots will be arranged.

Fresh corn-on-the-cob will be served to all visitors and refreshments will be available throughout the day. Those staying all day are asked to bring their own picnic lunch.

The Alberta Horticultural Research Center is located 5 km east of Brooks on Highway No.1, and the field day will start at 9 a.m. and run until 4 p.m.

For more information telephone 362-3391 in Brooks.

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AGRI-NEWS

August 31, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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August 31, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RABIES SITUATION IN ALBERTA

Alberta's Rabies Control Program appears to be working very well in the southern part of the province, which is the only region in Alberta where rabies is a problem.

The program was established by Alberta Agriculture at the end of 1979 in response to the discovery of three rabid skunks in the Foremost area. It involves the removal of as many skunks as possible from Warner to New Dayton to Foremost and Pakowki Lake.

Cliff Barrett, supervisor of animal pest control with Alberta Agriculture, reports that only 20 rabid skunks were found in the area to the end of July of this year compared with 40 during the same period in 1980. He also says that no rabid skunks have been confirmed since the beginning of May when one was diagnosed, and that the region in which rabid skunks were last found appears to be considerably smaller than it was a year ago.

He urges residents in the area bounded by a line from Seven Persons to Lethbridge and south to the American border not to become complacent now that the number of skunks diagnosed as rabid has dropped dramatically from last year. He believes that the next 15 months will be crucial to the success of the program, and that this success will depend upon how diligently local residents thin out the skunk population. "It is only by thinning out", he says, "that the disease can be prevented from spreading from animal to animal."

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Rabies Situation In Alberta (cont'd)

Although the removal of skunks from an area may sound like a drastic approach, in the long run it will benefit the skunk population by allowing them to rebuild their numbers in the absence of rabies.

Mr. Barrett points out that the aim of those involved in rabid skunk control is not to remove skunks from other parts of the province, except for an 18-mile buffer zone along Alberta's eastern border. "That buffer zone", he says, "is necessary to prevent new cases of the disease from coming into Alberta from Saskatchewan." Skunks have been systematically removed from the area on a steady basis since the early 1970's, and, according to Mr. Barrett, no positive cases have been picked up there for nearly four years, despite the fact that Saskatchewan has been plagued with rabid skunks for the last two decades. The number confirmed in that province over at least the latter part of this period has ranged between 100 and 150 per year.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW FROST CONTROL METHODS

Alberta Agriculture's agrometeorologist, Conrad Gietz, believes that the research reported in the following article, taken from the "California Plant Pathology" extension newsletter, could have far reaching effects for Alberta farmers in the not too distant future.
Mr. Gietz and other members of the department are presently working with American scientists on biological frost control in Alberta.

"Classical methods of frost control for frost sensitive plants are many and varied, but all aim at maintaining the temperature of a frost-sensitive plant above the temperature at which ice formation can occur within the plant. Various methods of heating the plant have been attempted, but all have limitations.

"It has now been found that certain species of bacteria, called INA, play a primary role in inciting frost damage to plants. They are active at temperatures only slightly below freezing and initiate the ice formation that is required for frost damage. The frost sensitivity of most plants can be explained on the basis that their leaf surfaces harbor a very large number of bacteria that catalyze the ice formation that kills plant tissue. A reduction in the number of these bacteria will lead to a corresponding decrease in frost injury.

"Three different methods of frost injury control have been developed. One of these employs commercially available bactericides including copper-containing pesticides, certain antibiotics such as streptomycin and various experimental organic bactericides. However, much work remains to be done to determine the most effective rate and type of bactericide as well as the application frequency of these materials.

"A second method involves the use of antagonistic bacteria to reduce the INA bacteria population on plants at the time of low temperatures, and, thereby, reduce the likelihood of frost injury. Although this method is appealing, more work remains to be done to determine

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New Frost Control Methods (cont'd)

the extent of host-specificity among the antagonistic bacteria. In other words, will a bacterium shown to successfully colonize tomato foliage and reduce frost sensitivity also successfully colonize citrus foliage?

"A third method entails the use of bacterial ice nucleation inhibitors. These chemicals have the ability to almost immediately inactivate the nucleus produced by INA bacteria without necessarily killing the bacterial cells. Even though they are still viable, the cells can no longer contribute nuclei, and, thus, cannot be responsible for initiating damaging ice formation. This method of control may be especially useful in areas where frost is only an infrequent problem.

"Because all nucleation inhibitors found to date are water soluble, they may have limited persistence on plants (ten days to two weeks). However, preliminary data indicate that the bacterial nuclei treated with these products may remain inactivated for a longer period. Factors resulting in occasional phytotoxicity are being investigated so that it will be possible to predict the safest and most effective application rate for various bacterial nucleation inhibitors and also the frequency of application required.

Although methods of controlling frost discussed above have been verified in a number of different geographical regions, they should be considered as experimental for the next two to three years, mainly because of regulatory procedures, and to facilitate completion of the work indicated. Certain bactericides, particularly copper compounds, are registered for use on a number of crops and may require only minor label changes to reflect different application rates and timing. Many of the bacterial ice nucleation inhibitors will probably be classified as exempt from registration because, in many cases, they are already classified as plant nutrients. Efforts are now underway to allow the use of all these agents for new control strategies for one of man's oldest crop production problems – frost injury!"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOOD TRADE SHOW SCHEDULED FOR ALBERTA

Canada's four Western provinces are planning to hold a food trade fair in Alberta in September.

Designed to acquaint 130 of Safeway's top executives from around the world and their wives with products manufactured in Western Canada, the trade fair will take place at Chateau Lake Louise at Lake Louise on September 24. The executives and their wives, who will all be in Banff during the week of September 20-26 for their annual meeting, will represent 2,500 Safeway stores in Canada, the United States, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Germany, Saudi Arabia and Australia. This will be the first time that they have held their annual meeting in Alberta and as far as is known the first time in Canada.

One hundred and twenty four companies — 48 from British Columbia, 35 from Alberta, 15 from Saskatchewan and 26 from Manitoba — will be exhibiting at the fair. And their products will range all the way from meat and meat products to peat moss and potting soil.

The trade fair is being held to coincide with Safeway's annual meeting so that the opinions of the executives and their wives about the products can be passed on to the Canada Safeway development department. It was set up in Edmonton last spring after a Canada Safeway task force decided that there was a potential for shipping Western Canadian products to Safeway stores in other parts of the world. Safeway's only other export development department is in the United States.

Wilf Bowns of Alberta Agriculture's international marketing group is in charge of co-ordinating the displays from the four Western provinces through their respective representatives.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CUSTOM HIRING AGREEMENT

As machinery fuel and repair costs continue to rise, more and more farmers are looking to custom work as one way of reducing their costs.

Custom hiring is a business arrangement, and like any other business arrangement, it should be based on a written agreement, which outlines the rights and duties of the parties involved. Harry Warne, supervisor of Alberta Agriculture's financial management section suggests that such an agreement contain:

. A description of the operation to be performed by the custom operator and an outline of the machines, materials and labor to be provided by each party.

. A time schedule for the operation and a reasonable period of notice to be given by each party if circumstances change the schedule. A schedule is recommended to avoid the substantial losses that could occur if the operation was not started or completed on time.

. Custom rate charges. These should be based on acreage, time (hour, day, week) or completion of the operation.

. Terms of payment.

. A clause stating that the custom operator will complete the operation in a satisfactory manner.

. A clause outlining the responsibility for any "down-time" that may occur as a result of a breakdown in machinery.

. A clause that states responsibility for a liability claim that arises from damage to personal property.

. The minimum period of notice required for terminating the agreement and the penalty that would be imposed if the agreement was unjustifiably terminated.

More information can be obtained from the Financial Management Section, Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO. (Telephone: 556-8421).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA BEE BREEDING PROGRAM

The Alberta Bee Breeding Program, funded by Farming for the Future, is designed to produce a strain of bees that are suitable for a northern climate.

In the past, Alberta has relied heavily on the United States for its annual supply of honey bees. According to Don MacDonald, Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of apiculture, about 120,000 packages containing two pounds of bees and one queen are transported by truck from California each year in March and April to regions as for north as La Crete. These new colonies produce an average of 200 pounds of honey per hive before the bees are killed in the fall.

However, this method of beekeeping, which has been traditional on the Prairies for many years, is not without its problems. One is the price of package bees, which Mr. MacDonald says has risen from $5 per package in 1970 to $24 per package this year.

A second problem is disease. It has been demonstrated that American foulbrood can be spread to non-infected hives via package bees if they originate from an infected hive. While Alberta has its share of this disease, there is increasing concern that bees may be being shaken from diseased hives in the U.S. where inspection programs have been down-graded because of escalating costs.

Then there is the internal parastic mite, *Acarapis woodi*, which is responsible for arcarine disease. It has long been a problem in Europe and more recently in South America, and last summer it was identified in Mexico near the American border. Another mite, *Varroa jacobsoni*, which spread from Asia to Europe, has now been reported in Columbia in South America. While both Mexico and Columbia are a long way from Alberta, they are not so far from California, and if they should get into the package bee industry there, Alberta's beekeepers would be in trouble.

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Alberta Bee Breeding Program (cont'd)

So, as a result of the rising costs of package bees and their transportation problems related to quality and the possibility of introducing diseases, more and more beekeepers in this province are attempting to overwinter their bees. But there is a serious problem here too. Because package bees are not selected for hardiness, initial success rates in their overwinter survival have often been disappointing. However, it has been found that as beekeepers continue to overwinter their bees, survival rates improve with each passing year, and properly managed overwintered colonies usually out-produce those that have been started with package bees.

Since the majority of the many thousands of queens that are produced in the United States are not suitable for overwintering, a beekeeper who wants to overwinter his hives must select his queens from local stock. Mr. MacDonald believes a queen rearing or stock improvement program is a necessary step towards increased honey production and towards the self sufficiency of Alberta's beekeeping industry.

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August 31, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SILVER LEAF DISEASE OF TREES

Silver leaf is a destructive disease of trees in Alberta and is particularly prevalent in central and northern areas of the province where rainfall is more abundant.

According to Dr. Ronald Howard, plant pathologist with the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks, silver leaf is caused by the fungus *Chondrosterium purpureum* which attacks poplar, willow, pear, apple, hawthorn, peach, mountain ash, apricot, rose, almond, laburnum, horse-chesnut, currant and gooseberry trees and shrubs. Its most characteristic symptoms are a silvery or leaden sheen to the leaves and the appearance of fungus fruiting bodies on dead or dying wood.

Dr. Howard says it is not unusual for only a single branch to be affected by silver leaf and that as the disease progresses, the metallic color intensified and rusty-looking streaks may appear along the mid-rib of the leaves. The leaves may also split and turn brown at the margins.

The silver color of the leaves is apparently caused by the fungus attacking the wood of the tree or shrub. A dark brown discoloration of the wood is nearly always evident, but it may be located a considerable distance below the branch that has the silver leaves.

If an affected branch eventually dies, purple fruiting bodies will push their way up through the dead bark. These fruiting bodies, which swell and become more conspicuous under moist conditions, release spores that may be carried by the wind to healthy trees. They do not form on living parts of a tree, and the infection of a healthy tree usually occurs through a wound.

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Silver Leaf Disease of Trees (cont'd)

Dr. Howard recommends the following measures to control silver leaf:

- Remove and burn dead wood
- Pick off and destroy the fungus fruiting bodies when practical
- Avoid unnecessarily wounding trees and shrubs, and cover pruning wounds and other injuries with a commercial pruning paint
- Do heavy pruning during the dormant season.

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August 31, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VISIT YOUR FARMERS' MARKET NOW!

Alberta's more than 90 farmers' markets are doing a booming business! Have you visited your local market lately? If you have not, you do not know what you have been missing.

The abundance of high quality, fresh produce being offered at this time of year is delicious to eat and ideal for canning and freezing. You can expect to find such things as tomatoes, cucumbers, celery, beans, carrots, parsnips, onions, Swiss chard, broccoli, squash, pumpkins, zucchini, cauliflower, cabbage, corn and potatoes.

In addition to their local supply of corn, many of Alberta's farmers' markets have a contract with growers in both southern Alberta and the Peace River region to have truck loads of corn delivered to them on a regular basis for as long as the corn season lasts. This corn is sweet and nutritious.

Practically all the markets are selling honey from this year's crop, mushrooms, apples, a variety of melons, home preserves, baked goods, eggs and poultry.

The fascinating thing about shopping at a farmers' market is that each market is different in that it caters to the specific needs and interests of its community. In essence, it is a traditional way of doing business in a lively community, and you can always be sure of a warm welcome from the stallholders.

The best way to find out what is being featured and what is going on at the market in your community is to watch your local newspaper. It will inform you about promotional produce sales as well as about harvest festivals, cooking demonstrations and any other special event.

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Visit Your Farmers' Market Now! (cont'd)

Information on the exact location of any farmers' market in Alberta is contained in the farmers' market map brochure, which is available from Travel Alberta outlets or it can be obtained from the Commodity Development Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-4004).

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August 31, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLOTHING DESIGN FOR THE HANDICAPPED

If you are disabled or have somebody in your family who is disabled, you will find Dr. Ann Kernaleguen's book entitled "Clothing Designs for the Handicapped" full of useful wardrobe ideas.

Dr. Kernaleguen, who is a professor in the University of Alberta's Faculty of Home Economics and has researched the clothing needs of the disabled, recommends regular clothing with modifications and adjustments to accommodate the specific handicap. She points out that handicaps are often emphasized rather than minimized by "special" clothing.

Her book provides practical information on choosing and modifying ready-to-wear garments for a wide range of disabilities. It includes designs for people with limited finger dexterity and arm movement; for people in a cast, on crutches, wearing a brace and confined to a wheelchair as well as designs for the elderly, the obese, the incontinent, the blind and women who have had a mastectomy. All the designs are geared to the average home sewer and include patterns for underwear, nightwear and sportswear for men, women and children.

"Clothing Designs for the Handicapped" costs about $20 and can be obtained from many retail outlets as well as the University Book Store, University of Alberta, Edmonton, T6G 2M8.

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August 31, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEED BIOLOGIST APPOINTED

Dr. Bart Bolwyn, head of plant sciences at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, has announced the appointment of Dr. Paul Sharma to the position of weed scientist in the weed science section.

Dr. Sharma will be conducting research into the biology and control of the economically important weeds in Alberta and co-operating in the diagnostic and extension services that are offered by the weed science section.

He obtained a B.Sc. (agriculture) and an M.Sc. (agronomy) in India and a master's degree and a PH.D in plant sciences, having specialized in weed science, from the Univeristy of Alberta. Following graduation he continued his research into various aspects of weed science and has 10 years of experience with the University of Alberta and Agriculture Canada's research station at Lacombe. During this period he was working on weed control in cereals and oil seed crops with special emphasis on the biology and control of wild oats and Canada thistle as well as the responses of weeds and crops to herbicide applications under a variety of environmental conditions. He published 25 research, extension and review articles during the same period.

Dr. Sharma's most recent employment was at Agriculture Canada's research station at Lethbridge where he was involved in research related to weed control in special crops and in weed control extension work.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone (403) 427-2137

August 31, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTED FOR OYEN

John G. Calpas. Alberta Agriculture's extension director, and Al Reimer, regional director have announced the appointment of John Ruschowski to the position of district agriculturist at Oyen.

A native of southern Saskatchewan, Mr. Ruschowski graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in the spring of 1980 with a B.Sc. (agricultural science), having majored in agricultural mechanics.

Prior to attending university, and during his summer holidays while at university, he helped his father on the family grain farm and hired himself out as a worker/partner on a large grain and irrigation farm in the area.

Mr. Ruschowski joined Alberta Agriculture a year ago and took his district agriculturist training at Smoky Lake.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOUTHERN REGION CO-DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTMENTS

Alberta Agriculture's director of extension, John G. Calpas, and regional director, Sherry Clark, have announced the following co-district agriculturist appointments for the southern part of the province.

James Hansen — Cardston

Mr. Hansen has been appointed co-district agriculturist at Cardston. He comes from Taber where he acquired practical agricultural experience on his father's mixed irrigation farm and feedlot operations. He graduated from Utah State University in 1979 with a B.Sc. (agriculture), having majored in animal science. Following graduation he worked for Olds College as a sheep specialist and joined Alberta Agriculture in the fall of 1980. He took his district agriculturist training at Hanna and Oyen.

Mr. Hansen's main hobby is livestock judging, and he spent two years as a member of the livestock judging team at Utah University.

Stanley Dereniwski — Medicine Hat

Mr. Dereniwski has been appointed co-district agriculturist at Medicine Hat. He was born in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, and obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Saskatchewan in 1979, having majored in agronomy. Following graduation he worked for Chipman Chemicals as a sales representative for southern Alberta. He joined Alberta Agriculture in November of 1979 and received his district agriculturist training at Falher in the Peace River region. He was transferred to Taber in November 1980.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO DISTRICT HOME ECONOMISTS APPOINTED

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the appointments of Beverly Krol to the position of district home economist at Evansburg and Debra Brekke to the position of district home economist at Airdrie.

Beverly Krol

Ms. Krol grew up on a dairy farm near Spirit River and obtained a B.Sc. (home economics) from the University of Alberta last spring, having majored in clothing and textiles.

Her previous work experience include being a STEP student with Alberta Agriculture in the summer of 1979 during which time her main duty was to put together a toy, play and child development kit. The following summer she worked as a summer assistant in the clothing and textiles field at the Home Economics Laboratory in Edmonton. From January to April of this year she did a practicum in the area of foods and nutrition at the Home Economics Laboratory. Her work mainly involved the Nutrition at School and the Diet Detective (Jr.) Programs and other mini-computer nutritive programs. From May of this year until her present appointment she was acting district home economist in the Sedgewick district office.

Debra Brekke

Ms. Brekke comes from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and obtained her B.Sc. (home economics) from the University of Alberta in 1978. She specialized in clothing and textiles and she received certificates in architectural drafting and detailing from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in the same year.

After graduating from the University of Alberta Ms. Brekke helped to set up and manage a Scandinavian furniture and accessory store in Edmonton. She joined Alberta Agriculture in the summer of 1979 and took her district home economist training with Betty Birch in Stettler. She became a district home economist at Stettler in May 1980 and held that position until her present appointment.

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